

Bryson, Santana and Joshua v. Rough Country, LLC

Page 1

1 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
2 NORTHERN DISTRICT OF GEORGIA  
3 GAINSVILLE DIVISION

4 SANTANA BRYSON AND JOSHUA  
5 BRYSON, as Administrators  
6 of the Estate of C.Z.B.,  
7 and as surviving parents of  
8 C.Z.B., a deceased minor,

Plaintiffs,

CASE NO.

vs.

2:22-CV-017-RWS

9 ROUGH COUNTRY, LLC,  
10 Defendant.

11  
12  
13 VIDEOTAPE DEPOSITION OF G. BRYANT BUCHNER, P.E.  
14 APPEARING REMOTE FROM  
15 TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA

JANUARY 23, 2024

11:13 A.M.

16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21 Reported Remotely By:  
22 Judith L. Leitz Moran  
23 RPR, RSA, CCR-B-2312  
24  
25

## Bryson, Santana and Joshua v. Rough Country, LLC

Page 2

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On behalf of Defendant:

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ALSO PRESENT:

JONATHAN MILLER, VIRTUAL VIDEO TECHNICIAN

## Bryson, Santana and Joshua v. Rough Country, LLC

Page 3

## I N D E X

EXAMINATION	PAGE
BY MR. HILL .....	5

## E X H I B I T S

(EXHIBITS SUBMITTED ELECTRONICALLY)

EXHIBIT NO.		PAGE
Exhibit 1	Defendant Rough Country, LLC's Second Amended Notice of Taking Videotaped Deposition Duces Tecum of G. Bryant Buchner, P.E.	10
Exhibit 2	Curriculum Vitae	12
Exhibit 3	Testimony List of G. Bryant Buchner, September 17, 2020 to October 11, 2023	43
Exhibit 4	Fee Schedule	50
Exhibit 5	Invoices	50
Exhibit 6	10/12/2023 Report (BRYSON 001350 - 001361)	73
Exhibit 7	Support Documents (BRYSON 001362 - 1374)	75
Exhibit 8	Calculated Stock Vehicle Crush (BRYSON 003990 - 003999)	117

1 WITNESS APPEARED REMOTELY FROM TALLAHASSEE, FL

2 JANUARY 23, 2024 - 11:13 A.M.

3  
4 VIDEO TECHNICIAN: We are on the record  
5 January 23rd, 2024, at approximately 11:13 a.m.  
6 Eastern Time.

7 This will be the videotape deposition of  
8 George Bryant Buchner.

9 Would counsel please identify themselves  
10 and who they represent for the record.

11 MR. HILL: Rick Hill --

12 MS. CANNELLA: Tedra Cannella and Devin  
13 Mashman for the Plaintiffs.

14 MR. HILL: We spoke over each other  
15 there. Did you catch that, Court Reporter?

16 MS. CANNELLA: Oh, sorry. Tedra Cannella  
17 and Devin Mashman for the Plaintiffs.

18 MR. HILL: Rick Hill on behalf of the  
19 Defendant.

20 VIDEO TECHNICIAN: Would the court  
21 reporter please swear in the witness.

22 THE COURT REPORTER: Mr. Buchner, please  
23 raise your right hand.

24

25

1 G. BRYANT BUCHNER, P.E.,  
2 being first duly sworn, was examined as follows:

3 MR. BUCHNER: Yes, I do.

4 EXAMINATION

5 BY MR. HILL:

6 Q Thank you, Mr. Buchner. My name is Rick  
7 Hill. I think we've met a couple of times in the  
8 past. It's good to see you again.

9 A Thank you.

10 Q I wanted to start just by identifying,  
11 since I'm not there, what you may have brought with  
12 you to the deposition.

13 I know you provided file material to  
14 counsel for the Plaintiffs which have been provided  
15 to us prior to the deposition.

16 Did you bring everything that you had  
17 previously produced to the Plaintiff's counsel with  
18 you today to the deposition?

19 A Yes.

20 Q Okay. And do you have it in electronic  
21 format or do you have it in paper format?

22 A Yes, I have some of it in paper format.  
23 All of it in electronic format to the best of my  
24 abilities. Every now and then things get crossed.  
25 But, yeah, most of it's -- I should have everything

1 in electronic.

2 Q Sure. One of the things that I don't  
3 believe we have is the actual digital electronic  
4 version of the HVE case file.

5 Have you provided that to counsel for the  
6 Plaintiffs?

7 A No, we have not. We have -- our practice  
8 is to record the printed copy because the  
9 electronic copy sometimes doesn't get properly  
10 saved or something will happen to it.

11 In this case I'm not aware that I have  
12 been able to find the original electronic copy,  
13 but -- so I'm -- I couldn't get it over the  
14 weekend. I wasn't here over the weekend.

15 So if we have to have it, we'll keep  
16 looking, but at this point in time I don't have --  
17 I don't have that exact document for you. We have  
18 the -- the archived document which is the data  
19 itself.

20 Q Okay. When you say "the archived  
21 document," just so I understand you have on your  
22 system the original digital version of the case  
23 file or is that what you're not able to locate and  
24 you would just have an archive version of it  
25 digitally somewhere?

1           A       Well, you said case file just there. A  
2 minute ago, I thought you said the HVE file.

3           Q       Yeah, the HVE what I call case file which  
4 is the original HVE file.

5           A       Yeah, I don't -- when I looked, we didn't  
6 have that. We have -- we maintain the paper copies  
7 of everything obviously because they can be put  
8 under lock and key, but anybody on the computer  
9 doing other work can, you know, move things around  
10 on us from time to time.

11                   So I mean, I'm not saying I don't have  
12 it, I'm saying I couldn't find it when they looked  
13 for it this weekend.

14           Q       Now I understand.

15                   So you -- after it was originally  
16 generated, you printed out hard copies of the  
17 various reports that it generates and you kept  
18 those?

19           A       Right. Yes.

20           Q       But you're not able to locate that  
21 original HVE file that would contain all of those  
22 reports in a digital format?

23           A       Not -- not as of yet, no, sir.

24           Q       Okay.

25           A       So.

1 MS. CANNELLA: Mr. Hill, what was the end  
2 of that question? I couldn't hear it. The  
3 original HVE file that would contain?

4 BY MR. HILL:

5 Q All of the data and reports generated by  
6 the HVE software.

7 A Well, we -- we printed and generated  
8 everything that we need or could possibly need.

9 If someone else wants something, we can  
10 always re-enter it and rerun it, I don't have a  
11 problem doing that.

12 I'm just telling you that what was open  
13 when we hit print, we didn't find that the way we  
14 thought we would and that's the electronic filing  
15 issue.

16 But we can re-enter it and, you know,  
17 give you that, that wouldn't be a problem.

18 BY MR. HILL:

19 Q Sure. And when you say re-enter it, just  
20 so I understand, you would need -- actually, rerun  
21 the test?

22 A Right. We would just --

23 Q Rerun the same --

24 A Rerun it again, yeah, to the best of our  
25 abilities.



1           Q     All right. And I just ask that because I  
2 believe we received the damage data report, the  
3 accident history report. Those were produced a  
4 week ago or more than a week ago with your original  
5 file.

6                     And then over the weekend, we received  
7 the event data report and the vehicle data report  
8 and the geometry files.

9                     But what we haven't seen is the driver  
10 controls report, the environment data or the  
11 messages report.

12                    And I guess what you're saying is you  
13 didn't print those other three reports out at the  
14 time it was originally run and you're not sure  
15 whether you still have it?

16            A     Right. And to me, they're -- they  
17 wouldn't be relevant because we're only simulating  
18 the crash component of it, we're not trying to run  
19 the vehicle to see if they go to rest or anything  
20 like that.

21                    It's a -- we're simply using it for the  
22 contact phase, but -- so we -- we never printed  
23 those. But if we -- somebody's got to have them,  
24 we'll just have to try to recreate the wheel which  
25 we can do or anybody else can recreate the wheel --

1 Q Sure.

2 A -- if they have the program and want to.

3 Q Okay. But you have produced all the  
4 printouts that you have from that HVE simulation?

5 A Yes.

6 Q Okay. All right. Just so that we have  
7 it, I will share my screen here. And we -- I'll  
8 attempt to. I'm having some issues.

9 Give me one second to figure this out.  
10 Hopefully this will work.

11 A Agreed.

12 Q I'm nervous. Got off to a rough start.  
13 Okay. Can you see my screen?

14 A I can.

15 Q Okay. Great.

16 (Deposition Exhibit 1 marked.)

17 BY MR. HILL:

18 Q I'm just going to attach this as  
19 Exhibit 1. This is just the notice to the  
20 deposition just so we'll have it attached.

21 And I'll fast forward here hopefully to  
22 the Exhibit A. And I know that there were some  
23 objections to some of the items requested here.

24 As I understand it, the objection was  
25 based upon communications with counsel in

1 anticipation or preparation for trial or for your  
2 testimony.

3 Other than those types of communications,  
4 have you withheld any other information requested  
5 in this exhibit that relates to this case?

6 A No.

7 Q And I'm assuming you have the notice  
8 there in front of you?

9 A Yeah, and I don't know that I withheld  
10 anything. But again, I wasn't involved in the --  
11 all my engineering stuff, I brought with me.

12 Q Right. So you basically brought  
13 everything in your file that relates to this case.  
14 And that means you produced that to Plaintiffs?

15 A Yes.

16 Q And you're not aware of what they may or  
17 may not have withheld in producing to us?

18 A That's right.

19 Q Okay.

20 VIDEO TECHNICIAN: Counsel, can we  
21 actually go off the record briefly just to fix an  
22 audio issue real fast.

23 MR. HILL: Sure.

24 VIDEO TECHNICIAN: The time is 11:21. We  
25 are off the record.

1 (Off the record.)

2 VIDEO TECHNICIAN: The time is 11:24. We  
3 are back on the record.

4 MR. HILL: Thank you. Sorry. I was just  
5 going to joke that I -- witnesses like to not be  
6 able to hear my questions because my questions  
7 don't make any sense.

8 THE WITNESS: Well, we're getting it all  
9 straightened. We're going to be fine here.

10 MR. HILL: Yeah, sorry for these glitches  
11 here at the beginning.

12 All right. Let me share my screen real  
13 quickly.

14 (Deposition Exhibit 2 marked.)

15 BY MR. HILL:

16 Q All right. Can you see my screen now?

17 A Yes, sir.

18 Q Okay. This is -- I'm going to mark this  
19 as Exhibit 2. This is your CV.

20 And we'll note that it appears to be  
21 dated 11/20/22. Is that the most current version  
22 of your CV? It's on the last page.

23 A It would seem to me there has been one  
24 published since 2022. So, no.

25 Q All right. Did you bring a current copy

1 of your CV with you today?

2 A No. I just thought there was a current  
3 one in the file. I didn't look at my CV.

4 Q Sure. Well, this is just the one that  
5 was produced to us in the case with your expert  
6 report.

7 Do you know of any particular experience,  
8 education or training that would not be reflected  
9 on this CV that you're relying upon in giving your  
10 opinions today? That's all I'm trying to verify.

11 A No. Should be no issues there at all.  
12 Thank you.

13 Q Okay. And on this page right here, this  
14 is, I believe, the third page of your CV, about a  
15 third of the way -- or half of the way down there  
16 is a bullet point for HVE User Software Training,  
17 engineering Dynamics Corporation.

18 So I'm assuming that's reflected that you  
19 have gone to EDC for HVE user training?

20 A Yes.

21 Q And when did you have that training?

22 A Oh, in -- I've been using HVE for 30  
23 years. That may have been -- from what I remember,  
24 it's almost 20 years ago.

25 Q All right. And did you actually go there

1 in person for that training?

2 A They -- I think that was -- my memory is  
3 that was in Miami. I think they came to Miami and  
4 I went to Miami.

5 Q All right. Was that part of some larger  
6 conference in Miami or do you remember the  
7 circumstances surrounding that training?

8 A No, it was just for that. I went to, you  
9 know, day training from HVE. That was -- that was  
10 what it was.

11 Q Sure. And you said it was approximately  
12 20 or so years ago?

13 A Yes, sir.

14 Q All right. Have you received any  
15 additional training on the use of HVE since that  
16 time?

17 A I don't really remember. We use it. I  
18 try to stay update. I'll -- if we need some  
19 information me and the staff will research.

20 They have different forums. My junior  
21 engineers will go to forums and then we'll talk  
22 about, you know, what they did.

23 So I mean, I've -- I've stayed abreast  
24 with it as far as using it, but I don't think I've  
25 actually gone to any seminars personally since

1 then.

2 I mean, I was using it for 10 years  
3 before I ever went to a seminar, so it's really a  
4 pretty straightforward program.

5 Q Sure. How did you learn how to use it  
6 without going to any type of training?

7 A I'm an engineer. You know, most of the  
8 programs I've used in my life didn't come with --  
9 you didn't go to seminars, you learn how to use  
10 them. You investigate them. They follow physics.

11 HVE's -- been a lot of updates. I still  
12 call it EDSMAC and EDCRASH because that's what they  
13 were way back in the day.

14 But, you know, it's -- it's an iterative  
15 process that they keep updating. And as long as  
16 you keep using it and keep working with it, you're  
17 basically, you know, eating the elephant in small  
18 bites. I wouldn't mind going to a course but I  
19 haven't needed to.

20 Q Okay. And when you use HVE, do you run  
21 the simulations yourself and provide the input or  
22 is that something your staff does?

23 A I'll talk to staff. I generally if I  
24 need to show them some stuff, I will. But  
25 generally I'll let them set it up and get it

1 running. I'll go in and check it.

2 I'll -- sometimes I'll sit down and make  
3 adjustments or to do some, I guess, experimenting  
4 with it to see what's -- what's going on with any  
5 particular accident we're using it in. But most  
6 time I have a junior engineer doing, you know, the  
7 vast majority of -- of the keystroking and  
8 everything.

9 Q Okay. And describe what keystroking is  
10 kind of involved with HVE just at a -- so the jury  
11 can understand it or I can understand it. So what  
12 type of inputs are needed in order to run the  
13 simulation, just in general?

14 A Well, it's got a lot of different modules  
15 and things, but, you know, all of them are going to  
16 start with you got to select a vehicle, you have to  
17 modify a vehicle, you have to check the CG's in the  
18 right location, might change the tire size.

19 Then when you go in and you start  
20 actually running your -- your impacts, you have to  
21 position the two vehicles. And that's -- you use  
22 your -- that's the engineering judgment where first  
23 contact is and their orientations and their speeds.  
24 All of that is put in with keystrokes.

25 And then once you -- once you get it



1 where it can run a simulation and it hits the  
2 vehicles together, then you look at what happens  
3 and the outputs.

4 And the outputs a lot of times aren't  
5 exactly what you expected or what you wanted, so  
6 you start making adjustments.

7 And in this case, the adjustments were we  
8 knew the impact speed of the truck and we knew the  
9 delta-V of the truck.

10 So we had to make -- we had to do a  
11 little bit of tuning, which is the keystrokes,  
12 where you change some of the parameters until you  
13 see something that represents the accident that  
14 you're trying to investigate.

15 But -- and so -- and in this case the  
16 scene is very simple, it's a flat scene. There  
17 really isn't a scene, so we don't have to -- a lot  
18 of times you'll be adjusting the scene and slopes  
19 and, you know, where things are.

20 But in this case we're not doing --  
21 really needing to do any of that. I mean, it's  
22 just about the size of the vehicles, how they hit,  
23 their velocity vectors, when they hit and then a  
24 little bit of adjusting like in this case, things  
25 like the coefficient of restitution to -- to tune

1 it and then get everything right.

2 Q Thanks. And we'll go into all of that in  
3 detail later.

4 Did you use HVE to try to simulate the  
5 accident that happened in this case?

6 A No.

7 Q Okay. And have you in the past when  
8 you've used HVE to explore a hypothetical accident  
9 that's different from the accident that you're  
10 investigating, have you run a baseline HVE test to  
11 try to simulate the actual accident? Have you ever  
12 done that?

13 A That's a big question. And I think -- I  
14 think it boils down to, the simplified version,  
15 have we ever used HVE to simulate an actual  
16 accident, the answer is yes.

17 Q And what would be your reasoning for  
18 simulating an actual accident using HVE when you  
19 actually know what happened in the accident?

20 A Well, I'm -- I'm -- I -- you really  
21 confused me with that question.

22 Q All right. Let me -- let me try to  
23 rephrase it. Sorry about that.

24 A Sure.

25 Q Part of your analysis of any accident is

1 to actually physically look at the vehicles  
2 involved, look at the scene and use that  
3 information to recreate the accident, correct?  
4 That's sort of Step 1?

5 A Reasonably. Reasonably. We call it  
6 reconstruct the accident, yes.

7 Q Yeah. And if you can do that using the  
8 actual physical evidence from the actual accident,  
9 why would you need to run an HVE simulation of the  
10 actual accident?

11 A Okay. I think I understand your  
12 question.

13 If we just look at the physical evidence,  
14 we can tell where vehicles hit and tell where  
15 vehicles move, but we can't always tell the speed  
16 at which the vehicles hit.

17 And that's where HVE would be very  
18 beneficial is to test different speeds and to see  
19 which speeds match the physical evidence. They  
20 don't always perfectly match but, you know, within  
21 reason.

22 However, in a case where we know the  
23 speeds, say in this one because we have the speeds  
24 recorded by the electronic data in the pickup  
25 truck, we don't need a simulation program to

1 reconstruct the speeds.

2 So HVE is very helpful when you're --  
3 when you're missing some information.

4 Well, in this case we're really not  
5 missing any information about the accident. We  
6 kind of know everything. We don't need HVE.

7 But if we want to say what would happen  
8 if the truck looked different, then that's where  
9 HVE is very helpful. And that's what we used it  
10 for here, but...

11 So there's -- there's crashes that we  
12 need HVE to fill in some of the blanks, but then  
13 there's other crashes where we don't need HVE. And  
14 so, therefore, we don't use it.

15 Q Other than determining the speed of the  
16 vehicles when you don't know it, what other uses  
17 would there be for HVE and simulating an actual  
18 accident? What other data can it provide?

19 A I'm sorry, I spoke over you. I think I  
20 heard your whole question, but ask it again.

21 Q Sure. So you indicated that one reason  
22 to run the HVE simulation on an accident that  
23 you've actually -- that actually occurred would be  
24 it could tell you the speeds when you don't know  
25 the speeds in the accident.

1           What are some other reasons you would run  
2     an HVE on an actual accident? What are some other  
3     information you can glean from that that you can't  
4     get from investigating the actual accident?

5           A     Rotation rates can be hard to get.  
6     Accelerations at different parts of the vehicles  
7     can sometimes be hard to hand calculate.

8           I mean, you can use some -- some Euler  
9     mechanics calculations, but those are -- those are  
10    -- can be pretty tough to do.

11           So sometimes it's just a convenient way  
12    to fill in some of the more subtle blanks of what a  
13    vehicle is doing.

14           And sometimes it's just because you want  
15    to visualize it, you want to -- you want to kind of  
16    -- you've done all your calculations and say, okay,  
17    well, we think this evidence means this, let's run  
18    an HVE to give us a quick visualization check on --  
19    on what our brain is telling us.

20           So it's got some advantages depending on  
21    the situation.

22           Q     I believe you indicated that, you know,  
23    it's obviously only as good as the input you put  
24    in. And then sometimes you need to tweak those  
25    inputs to get the result that you're looking for;

1 is that fair?

2 A That was specifically for this case  
3 because we -- we had -- we knew -- we knew the  
4 inputs and the outputs with respect to speed, but  
5 the program didn't admittedly match the input speed  
6 with the output speed or the delta-V.

7 And that's because the program didn't  
8 have the co-efficient of restitution quite right.  
9 Because it comes with defaults and we had to work  
10 on that a little bit to -- so that the mathematical  
11 equations would -- would get from the beginning to  
12 the end properly. So we had to get a little  
13 guidance.

14 Q So to make sure I understand that, was it  
15 the use of the default coefficient of restitutions  
16 by the software the reason why the input and output  
17 delta-Vs didn't match?

18 A Essentially, yes.

19 Q Was there any other aspect of the initial  
20 run that you think contributed to the inputs and  
21 outputs not matching?

22 A No.

23 Q Okay. And in tweaking the coefficients  
24 of restitution, and we'll get into this later, I  
25 believe you had to look that up somewhere, correct?

1 Did you get that from Neptune Engineering  
2 for on one -- at least one of the vehicles?

3 A No, no, no. That's just -- that's just a  
4 tuning within the program. That's -- once you run  
5 it, the outputs were precisely matching the EDR  
6 data in the truck.

7 So we -- we tuned effectively the  
8 coefficient of restitution to -- to get it to  
9 match.

10 Q And just so I understand this, the  
11 coefficient of restitution of what?

12 A Of the collision. It's --

13 Q So that's not of the roadway?

14 A Right.

15 Q Not -- and it's -- is it of both  
16 vehicles? When you say "the collision," just so I  
17 understand it, what do you mean?

18 A It's a property of the -- let me see if I  
19 want to use the right word, property.

20 It's a product of the collision of the  
21 two vehicles. They would independently have a  
22 restitution associated with them if they ran into  
23 an immovable barrier wall.

24 And when they hit each other, the  
25 restitutions were of each individual and worked

1 together for a total restitution of -- of the  
2 accident.

3 So we do a -- so it's -- it's for the  
4 crash. It's not for each car. It's for a crash.

5 Because if you hit the cars in a  
6 different orientation, you -- you would -- you  
7 would probably get a slightly different answer on  
8 that.

9 So it's -- it's how much the -- the  
10 vehicles rebound and how much they -- they -- they  
11 spring off of each other, if you will.

12 They don't stick together perfectly, they  
13 actually work to try to -- they bend -- like you  
14 take a paper clip and bend it, then you let it go,  
15 it springs open a little bit. The metal bends in  
16 and it wants to spring out a little bit.

17 And that's -- that's the -- the part that  
18 nobody really knows about a crash or exactly  
19 precisely sure. And that's one of those things  
20 that you have control over to try to refine your  
21 analysis.

22 Q And thanks for that explanation.

23 So you can't really calculate that  
24 combined coefficient of restitution? I think  
25 that's what you just meant by the -- the very end



1 of that answer.

2 A Yes.

3 Q What -- the way you can determine it is  
4 by manipulating that combined coefficient of  
5 restitution in the program until it outputs the  
6 appropriate delta-Vs for both input and output; is  
7 that a fair way to put that?

8 A Right, when you know the delta-Vs.

9 Now, you can -- if you don't know them,  
10 you can use a default in the program or you can use  
11 a range. But in this case we knew them, we knew --  
12 we knew the two values. We -- we knew the  
13 beginning and ending.

14 We -- we knew the beginning speed of the  
15 truck and the delta-V of the truck, so we know the  
16 ending speed.

17 And the -- the tool to allow the -- those  
18 -- all those numbers to match up is the  
19 restitution.

20 Q Gotcha.

21 And you knew that from the download from  
22 the truck?

23 A Yes, yeah. The -- the truck measured the  
24 crash for us, so.

25 Q Right.

1           A       It really did -- did a lot of what HVE  
2       might normally do for us if we needed it. We don't  
3       -- or if we needed it. But in this day and age,  
4       the truck measures it for us.

5           Q       Sure. Now, is there anything preventing  
6       you from using HVE to first simulate the actual  
7       crash in this case?

8                   If you are to do that using the actual  
9       vehicles involved in this case, wouldn't that  
10      generate a coefficient of restitution for the  
11      actual accident that would be consistent with the  
12      inputs and the outputs?

13          A       Well, that's two questions in there.  
14      First, HVE would be quite suspect anyways starting  
15      out trying to reconstruct this crash because of the  
16      amount of -- I call it the -- the truck exploded  
17      the rear of the car.

18                  The -- the way that the -- that the  
19      unibody rails bend down, the way that the wells  
20      unzip, the way that metal was torn, the way that  
21      the hatch was actually caved in.

22                  You've actually defeated the structure of  
23      the Escape so much that I would be worried about it  
24      following HVE's, let's just say, thought process.

25                  There's a -- in HVE, it's -- they're

1     trying to model a vehicle that will follow -- that  
2     will act like a vehicle.

3             I'm not so sure that the -- all the  
4     damage on the back of the Escape would make it  
5     robust to use an HVE simulation of the way it was  
6     damaged in the accident.

7             The best answer to the question, I didn't  
8     need to because I can measure everything and I can  
9     have all of that. I have everything I need about  
10    the accident form the truck or the damage.

11            But if your question is, and I think it  
12    was, why didn't we do HVE or why wouldn't we, well,  
13    I would be very concerned that it would be actually  
14    representative.

15            Q     And what differentiates an HVE of the  
16    actual accident from the HVE simulation that you  
17    ran using a -- a model stock 2015 F250?

18            So obviously, you're -- you're going to  
19    testify here that the HVE simulation that you ran  
20    of a hypothetical incident is reliable and is  
21    valid, but I think you've just said that you would  
22    not feel that way if you try to model the actual  
23    accident. So what's the difference between the  
24    two?

25            A     Okay. Well, first, when we used HVE we

1 were using it on SV -- for two vehicles that hit as  
2 vehicles should reasonably strike each other,  
3 meaning bumper to bumper, structure to structure.

4 So, you know, in the development of the  
5 program, it's clearly that -- that crash was  
6 contemplated. So we feel very comfortable about  
7 that. It's a robust platform to do that with.

8 I didn't say that it couldn't be used for  
9 the other, I said I would be very suspect of it  
10 because of the factors I gave you. And I would say  
11 we didn't need to.

12 In other words, it would be -- for our  
13 purposes, it wouldn't add any knowledge, we already  
14 had all the knowledge. So we'd basically be adding  
15 uncertainty on to certainty by trying to use HVE to  
16 that.

17 So I -- I would be suspect of doing it  
18 because of a -- but I didn't need to do it, and  
19 that's why we didn't do it.

20 Q So would you be critical of an approach  
21 taken by others in your field that they would  
22 always use HVE to simulate the actual crash first  
23 to create a baseline report that would make sure  
24 that the inputs that you used in the hypothetical  
25 crash were consistent with the actual crash?

1 MS. CANNELLA: Object to the form of the  
2 question as it assumes facts not in evidence.

3 A Yeah, and there's two -- there were two  
4 questions there.

5 The first one is, if someone says they're  
6 always going to use HVE for everything. I'm like,  
7 well, close the door, I don't even want to --  
8 that's a -- to me that's crazy.

9 HVE is not that good of program. It's  
10 got things that can be used for and things it can't  
11 be. It's like all the other calculation tools we  
12 have.

13 If you're -- if that's what you think, is  
14 that I can use it for everything to be  
15 representative, many times HVE just -- we know all  
16 the evidence, but when we start looking at  
17 something in it, it -- it can't handle it. It  
18 can't handle it.

19 But clearly, in a straight-on rear  
20 collision, bumper to bumper, it's -- it's a -- it's  
21 a wonderful tool as we use. It's just one of the  
22 tools that we use.

23 But if -- if -- to say -- to give it the  
24 amount of deference that's in your question, it's  
25 like, oh, HVE knows physics better than physics

1 does. HVE knows reality better than reality does.

2 I would disagree with that. I would say,  
3 hmm, that's -- maybe I'm misunderstanding  
4 something, but I would not respect that approach  
5 with the absolutism that you gave it.

6 BY MR. HILL:

7 Q I appreciate that answer, and I guess I  
8 phrased the question poorly.

9 Let's say you had an environment where  
10 you believe HVE was a proper tool. You just kind  
11 of said it's limited.

12 A I didn't hear one of the words. If you  
13 can ask that again, so I don't have to go back. Or  
14 say it again.

15 Q Yep.

16 So let's say you have a bumper-to-bumper,  
17 rear-end collision like you've just described where  
18 you feel like the HVE program is sufficient to  
19 actually use to analyze the crash.

20 All right, so let's assume that's the  
21 case. And let's say you wanted to change the  
22 bumper height on one of the vehicles so that it  
23 would still be a bumper-to-bumper impact, correct?  
24 So it would still be a situation where you feel  
25 like HVE would be a valid tool.

1           Let's say in that situation, where it  
2           could properly model both the actual crash and the  
3           hypothetical crash when conditions changed.

4           In that situation would you agree that it  
5           would be smart to do a baseline HVE simulation of  
6           the actual crash in order to make sure that it can  
7           properly simulate what you know happened before you  
8           try to simulate a hypothetical crash?

9           A       I would say you wouldn't know unless you  
10          showed me the crash and let me look at what you  
11          were talking about.

12          I mean, that's -- that's -- that's --  
13          that absolutism, oh, it must be okay. We don't  
14          know until we see -- until we see the evidence and  
15          see what it is.

16          HVE is nothing more than a tool that we  
17          have available to us along with other tools.

18          So I -- the question can't be answered.  
19          It has -- we have to see the crash and have to know  
20          what the data is and what we're looking at.  
21          Because it may and may not be able to do it.

22          Q       Well, it would have --

23          A       I don't let HVE make the decisions for  
24          me, I make the decisions. HVE is just a tool.  
25          It's like a wrench.

1           You know, there are several different  
2       wrenches you can turn a nut with. You know, a  
3       box-end wrench is going to be a whole lot better  
4       than a crescent wrench. But sometimes a crescent  
5       wrench is a better one because -- for whatever  
6       reason. I don't know until I look at the nut.

7           I'm not going to know until I look at the  
8       accident. So I -- I would say I don't know.

9           Q     Well, I think you've indicated that with  
10      this tool, this wrench, you have to calibrate it  
11      properly in order for it to be effective. Do you  
12      agree with that?

13          A     Yeah, a crescent wrench you've got to  
14      make -- you've got to adjust it tight to fit the  
15      nut or it's not going to work.

16          Q     Right. And what --

17          A     Same thing with any program, you're going  
18      to have to -- you have to -- it's just called  
19      tuning when you're doing your simulation. It can't  
20      know everything. We have to give it some more  
21      information sometimes.

22          Q     Right. And one way to learn what the  
23      proper -- appropriate tuning would be would be to  
24      tune it until it properly simulates the actual  
25      crash involved. That would be one way to tune it,



1 correct?

2 A No, not in this case. That would --  
3 because -- look, you're -- that's the apples and  
4 oranges comparison that -- it doesn't work.

5 Because in the accident the tailgate, in  
6 the backseat of the car in the pillars, the C  
7 pillars, or maybe it's the D pillars, absorb the  
8 energy, not the frame of the vehicle or the -- or  
9 the unibody in the rails.

10 So to say that -- that we have to trick  
11 -- because it would be tricking, I think -- HVE  
12 into making that crash happen because I don't think  
13 it's really built for that crash.

14 I don't -- I think that's -- when the  
15 truck gets so high above the bumper, as I told you  
16 earlier, I would be very suspect to even try and  
17 use it. And then say you have to do that.

18 We have all of that data. We know what  
19 that information is. We want to use HVEs for  
20 something that's appropriate.

21 And I don't -- I'm not -- I'm not saying  
22 you wouldn't learn something from it, but you would  
23 never learn anywhere near what we already know  
24 because of the -- the data that we have from the  
25 truck and the physical evidence we can see.

1           That would be a -- for me it would be a  
2   useless endeavor and one fraught with -- fraught  
3   with -- with danger that you would get that  
4   information.

5           But if someone wants to do it, I'm happy  
6   with them doing it. I just don't think that would  
7   be appropriate at all.

8           Q     So the distinction there is that if you  
9   have bumper override and impact up -- that's above  
10   the bumper in any way, are you saying that that  
11   creates a situation where HVE is no longer  
12   something you would rely upon because it just can't  
13   handle that type of situation? Is that kind of --  
14   a way to describe that?

15          A     No, I told you about this earlier in the  
16   first time you asked the question.

17                The first bumper came off, the bumper bar  
18   came off of it, of the car. The -- the unibody  
19   rails, one went down, one went in. We lost a lot  
20   of the welds at the back.

21                So I think that the -- the back structure  
22   of this vehicle wasn't performing anything like  
23   what we imagined a car would actually perform.

24                It's outside of what a design or a  
25   computer program, you know, in my opinion, would be

1 taking into consideration in -- in putting one  
2 that's -- you're going to be crashing vehicles that  
3 should act somewhat like the structures they were  
4 designed to be. So that's really my complaint.

5 I've -- I've given other examples as we  
6 go along. But, you know, you can drive a nail with  
7 a crescent wrench and it goes in, but that doesn't  
8 mean you should be driving nails with crescent  
9 wrenches.

10 I think that's what could be going on  
11 here, is you could -- you can always get an answer  
12 out of HVE, but I don't know what the answer would  
13 be good for.

14 Because it's -- you know, it's -- one, we  
15 don't need it; and second, it's taking it outside  
16 of areas where I'd be comfortable that it would  
17 reliably tell you something.

18 And it might tell you a few things. I  
19 mean, if you just look at the momentum of it and  
20 things like that.

21 But as far as understanding the crash the  
22 way I need to, I don't -- I don't think it would be  
23 a good choice.

24 Q All right. So the HFE -- or HVE, sorry,  
25 simulation that you ran was dependent upon -- in

1 order for it to be useful and reliable to you, if I  
2 understand what you're saying, it's dependent upon  
3 there being bumper to bumper or frame to frame  
4 impact?

5 A No, no, you are dutifully trying to go  
6 outside of my answer with this.

7 It's -- it's a normal vehicle-to-vehicle  
8 collision. The vehicles acting fairly normal if we  
9 can get the truck to stay at the stock height.

10 It's -- it's well within the -- what the  
11 program is made to do, which we really appreciated.  
12 It's made to handle a vehicle-to-vehicle collision  
13 that's reasonable.

14 The accident wasn't reasonable. And the  
15 -- and the structure of the car didn't perform  
16 like -- anything like what it was reasonably  
17 intended to do because the head was so high and it  
18 defeated, you know, basically the structure of the  
19 car.

20 It's a unibody car that's no longer a  
21 unibody car anymore, it's -- it's piecemeal. It's  
22 torn apart. Pieces are hanging off of it. It just  
23 -- it just falls outside of what a car reasonably  
24 should be expected to do in a crash.

25 And if a car can't reasonably expect it,

1 how can we expect a computer program written to --  
2 to analyze car crashes to handle that, that's my --  
3 that's my real issue.

4 And I've answered it about four different  
5 ways now. I don't have anything else to tell you  
6 on this.

7 You're asking me about a hypothetical can  
8 we use HVE to do -- to stimulate the actual  
9 accident? And I'm like I would be suspect. I've  
10 given you a lot of reasons. I wouldn't -- I --

11 Q I'm sorry that we're misfiring.

12 A I initially --

13 Q Yep. If I'm not ans -- asking it  
14 appropriately, but I'm just trying to find out.

15 And -- and I'll move on and we'll talk  
16 about this more in detail later, I guess.

17 But you've made the distinction between a  
18 normal anticipated accident, which is how you're  
19 describing your simulation of a stock 2015 F250  
20 being involved in this accident instead of the  
21 subject F250.

22 And you've kind of said, okay, with a  
23 stock one, I can rely upon HVE because that creates  
24 a crash that the program would expect. Have I  
25 correctly stated that?

1           A       No, no. You -- parts of it are stated.  
2       But I just need to reiterate, we didn't need an HVE  
3       for the crash that happened because we have  
4       everything we need.

5                   HVE was just a tool to analyze what  
6       should have happened without a lifted truck.  
7       That's all it was.

8                   We're having this whole conversation  
9       which is actually something I never really had to  
10      have.

11                  You're -- you're -- I'm just being -- I'm  
12      answering your questions, they weren't mine. I  
13      don't need HVE for what you're asking it about.

14                  And I never even -- I'm just answering --  
15      I'm -- you have to tell the answers honestly now  
16      because I'm -- I'm an engineer.

17                  But the fact is, I didn't need HVE for  
18      the accident because it add -- would add nothing.  
19      What I needed HVE was to run what should have  
20      happened. Period.

21                  All -- this whole debate, we've been  
22      going for, you know, 45 minutes, is about -- about  
23      something that is outside of our work. I'm just  
24      trying to answer your questions.

25           Q       Well, I don't mean to be debating

1 anything. And I'm not talking about using HVE  
2 anymore to simulate the actual crash.

3 I'm talking about the parameters under  
4 which you believe HVE is appropriate. And you've  
5 described the simulated HVE work that you ran here  
6 as one of the circumstances where it's appropriate  
7 because there's bumper-to-bumper contact that you  
8 -- that you believed the program would expect. Is  
9 that fair to say?

10 I'm just saying that's why you believe it  
11 was appropriate in the simulation you did in this  
12 case?

13 A No, no, you're -- you're -- you've still  
14 got a twist to it that's not appropriate.

15 Q Okay.

16 A Basically -- basically we looked at the  
17 cars and said, guys, if these were reasonable stock  
18 cars, how can we tell what the crush would be?

19 One of the tools we used was HVE, but  
20 that was just a, you know, choice. We didn't  
21 choose it -- we're not -- I'm not trying to  
22 categorize use HVE in bumper-to-bumper crashes.

23 That's what you're trying to get me to do  
24 is to go -- is to -- is to talk about HVE as a  
25 universal, you know, when you can use it and when

1 you can't.

2 And I've already answered, we -- we look  
3 at each individual case by itself and we make  
4 judgments there of all the tools we have.

5 So in this case I knew that it would be  
6 reasonable with stock cars to run HVE and that's  
7 the only decision I had to make and that's the only  
8 one I did make.

9 Q Sure. Let me ask it this way: Do you  
10 have any support -- or would you agree that this  
11 was a complex crush-type situation that you're  
12 analyzing here?

13 A What -- what part are you talking about?

14 Q So if you're going to anal -- use HVE to  
15 -- what -- the tool -- the reason you use it in  
16 this case is to assist you in determining what type  
17 of crush would have been experienced under the  
18 hypothetical simulation that you ran using a stock  
19 F250, right?

20 A We -- it was one of the tools to predict  
21 what the crush would have been with a stock F250,  
22 yes.

23 Q Right. And would you agree that the  
24 crush with a stock 250 is a complex crush that  
25 you lay?



1           A       Not any more complex than what we do  
2       every single day. It's -- to us it's not  
3       particularly complex, but maybe -- maybe to others  
4       it is.

5                   It's -- this is just a standard ho hum  
6       every single day. We -- this is what we do. It's  
7       not complex.

8           Q       Well, let me put it another way: Do you  
9       have any support that you can cite to that would  
10      validate your use of HVE to calculate or determine  
11      crush in a hypothetical incident?

12          A       Sure. I keep two of these books back  
13      here. This is just so I can give one to the staff  
14      when they come in and they have all their own  
15      books.

16                   This is Traffic Crash Reconstruction by  
17      Lynn Fricke from the Northwestern Traffic  
18      Institute.

19                   This is the first book that I have  
20      everyone go to in my office to -- as a good primer.  
21      It talks about HVE and the robustness of it. And  
22      it talks about crush and modeling the vehicles in  
23      it.

24                   So it's -- that's -- that's what I think  
25      is the premier training organization. And they --

1 you know, they -- they reference it and they  
2 recommend it.

3 Q You're saying that book is going to say  
4 that HVE can be used to model complex crush  
5 situations?

6 A Yes.

7 Q All right.

8 A Accident reconstruction, it uses crush.  
9 It references the programs that we used here, yes.

10 Q Sure. Now, I know that components of  
11 HVE, while we're on it, would be the SIMON  
12 software?

13 A Yes.

14 Q And whenever you use SIMON, you also need  
15 to use the DyMESH model?

16 A That's how we do it, yes. I don't think  
17 you always do, but yes.

18 Q And have you had any specific training in  
19 SIMON or DyMESH?

20 A Other than using it for years, no, sir.

21 Q Okay. So you've not gone to any classes  
22 or anything related to that software?

23 A No. If we need something, we'll contact  
24 them and we'll talk to them, but no.

25 Q Sure. Let me change my screen here.

1 Hold on.

2 Sorry, I didn't mean to be sharing it the  
3 whole time there.

4 A I'm only look -- I've got you in a little  
5 box in the corner, so it doesn't matter at all.

6 Q All right. All right. I've shared your  
7 testimony list. We'll mark that as Exhibit -- I  
8 guess we're on No. 3.

9 A Yes.

10 (Deposition Exhibit 3 marked.)

11 BY MR. HILL:

12 Q And I think this goes back to September  
13 of 2020.

14 Are you aware of any of these cases where  
15 you -- and these are just cases where you've given  
16 trial or deposition testimony, correct?

17 A Yes.

18 Q And so, you could work as a consulting  
19 expert on many other cases where you don't get  
20 trial or deposition testimony that are not on this  
21 list?

22 A Sure. Most of -- majority of our work --  
23 majority of our work doesn't ever require a  
24 deposition or trial, so it's not listed.

25 Q Right. And that's what I'm kind of

1 getting at is, with my questions I don't want them  
2 to be limited just to trial or deposition cases.

3 But from this list or from your other  
4 cases not on this list in this time period, did any  
5 of them involve an analysis of an accident  
6 involving lifted vehicle?

7 A I don't know of any off the top of my  
8 head, but I have a hard time believing that there  
9 weren't lifted vehicle in some of these accidents.

10 Q But as we sit here today, you don't  
11 recall a specific case where you worked on that did  
12 involve a lifted vehicle in the accident? You  
13 can't recall one specifically?

14 A I mean, no, I didn't prepare for that and  
15 I -- just sitting here, I don't remember.

16 I mean, I'm thinking -- I'm not able to  
17 sit here and quickly recall that. I'm sure I've  
18 done some. I'm just focused in on this case for  
19 this deposition and that's where my mind is. I'm  
20 -- I'm focused here but -- and if I think of one,  
21 I'll tell you.

22 Q Sure. So obviously you don't recall any  
23 time in the past where you've ever testified that  
24 the lift -- the lifted vehicle contributed in any  
25 way to increased intrusion or crush in the vehicle

1 that it hit? That's what I'm trying to get at.

2 A No, I -- probably not. Basically I just  
3 say here's what it is. You know, in other words,  
4 I'm not really -- I'm pretty much just a facts guy,  
5 here's what happened, here's where it is.

6 You know, so it -- it just come out like  
7 car A hit car B and this is the crush.

8 Q Sure.

9 A I don't remember specifically. I'm sure  
10 I've been asked a lot, well, if it didn't override  
11 what would it look like or something like that, but  
12 I just don't remember any of those cases.

13 Normally it's just what it is. It is  
14 what it is.

15 Q Well, speaking to that, how many of the  
16 cases that you can recall within this time period  
17 that you investigated involved override, as you've  
18 just described it?

19 A Well, override, you know, can happen,  
20 especially with an 18-wheeler. A vehicle run into  
21 the rear of an 18-wheeler, the side of an  
22 18-wheeler. You can also get -- run into objects  
23 and cause override. Sometimes you've got multiple  
24 impacts where vehicles get -- you know, get  
25 changed.

1           So, you know, override is something that  
2     we in some shape, form, or fashion deal with a fair  
3     amount.

4           Q     Sure. So it can happen without the  
5     necessity of one of the vehicles being -- having a  
6     lift kit installed? You can have override in a lot  
7     of different situations?

8           A     Yes.

9           Q     All right. From this list and from your  
10    general experience, can you give me a breakdown,  
11    and I know you get asked this question in every  
12    deposition, but the percentage of the cases you  
13    work on that are for -- or where you're retained by  
14    lawyers for the plaintiff versus the number of  
15    cases where you're retained by lawyers for the  
16    defense?

17          A     It's a 50/50 breakdown. We got as many  
18    plaintiff projects that I have defense cases over  
19    the years and we maintain it about that at any  
20    time.

21          Q     Right. And so you would -- your  
22    testimony would be from this testimony list you  
23    would estimate that 50 percent of the cases on this  
24    list you testified on behalf of the defense and 50  
25    percent on behalf of the plaintiff.

1 And I'm not holding you to an exact  
2 percentage, but that's your testimony and probably  
3 your recall of your role in these cases?

4 A Yes.

5 Q Okay.

6 A Just because that's -- that's how we  
7 manage the work when it comes in. So it goes out  
8 the same way it comes in usually.

9 Q So how do you manage that? I mean, you  
10 can't control who calls you and asks you for your  
11 help. So do you actually limit the number of cases  
12 you'll take from one side or the other in order to  
13 keep the 50/50 ratio?

14 A Right. We'll get more calls than I can  
15 handle. And so, if we -- if there's an imbalance,  
16 we just don't -- let's say we've been -- got too  
17 many defense projects for that month, we'll just  
18 back off. And -- and before we finish the month  
19 out, we'll -- we'll balance it out.

20 So we target a 50/50 on the intake side.  
21 Because I can't -- we don't do every project we get  
22 asked to do.

23 Q Right. How many of the cases on this  
24 list were you retained by Ms. Cannella's firm or  
25 her former firm, Butler Wooten, just give -- if you

1 can recall?

2 MS. CANNELLA: Object to the form of the  
3 question as a compound question.

4 BY MR. HILL:

5 Q Well, I just tried to make it simple in  
6 one question, but I can ask it individually if you  
7 want, if you don't understand it.

8 A On here, three or four, is my guess with  
9 you.

10 Q Right. So you don't know specifically  
11 how many, but your guess would be three to four?

12 A Yes.

13 Q All right. And just with Ms. Cannella's  
14 firm, her new firm, how many cases have you worked  
15 on with her?

16 A I don't know. I don't -- I didn't pay a  
17 lot of attention. I still have -- the original  
18 group grouped in my mind, so I don't -- and I don't  
19 know what happened to the projects that they had  
20 and how they split them up or anything.

21 So I know of this project and I can think  
22 of one other that I've worked on. But there might  
23 be more.

24 Q Do you know of any other that you are  
25 currently working on?



1 A Not off the top of my head, no.

2 All right. I'm not sure who's got them.

3 I think I can think of three.

4 I think there is one other project. I  
5 don't know what it is, but I did hear a reference  
6 recently to a project. I didn't know the name of  
7 it. And I think Ms. Cannella was associated with  
8 it.

9 Q When you say recently a part of it, do  
10 you mean that you're currently working on it or  
11 you're just aware that you might be working on it?  
12 Or what does that mean?

13 A Well, I didn't recognize the style or the  
14 name and I asked someone who that was. And it was  
15 alluded to that was one of Ms. Cannella's projects.  
16 I think it's one we were working on.

17 But I never -- I don't remember names  
18 very well. So I'm -- I'm answering your question.  
19 I think I would say three is the best answer.

20 Q Three that you're currently working on?

21 A Three I have.

22 Q Three that you have. Okay, I understand.  
23 Sure.

24 MR. HILL: All right. And if I didn't  
25 mention it, Ms. Court Reporter, that will be

1 Exhibit 3, I believe, that we were just talking  
2 about, his testimony list.

3 (Deposition Exhibit 4 marked.)

4 BY MR. HILL:

5 Q All right, now I've shared your fee  
6 schedule. I'll make that Exhibit 4 just so we have  
7 it.

8 And the only question I really have is  
9 that is your current fee schedule and -- and  
10 reflects the fees.

11 I know this may not reflect the fees that  
12 you charged throughout the history of this case,  
13 but it reflects the fees that you're currently  
14 charging in association with your work in this  
15 case; is that fair?

16 A Yes, sir.

17 Q All right. And that would include the  
18 \$1,800 deposition retainer fee related to today's  
19 deposition?

20 A Sure.

21 MR. HILL: All right. That's Exhibit 4.

22 (Deposition Exhibit 5 marked.)

23 BY MR. HILL:

24 Q All right. I've just shared what I  
25 believed to be the invoices that you have invoiced

1 from your work on this case.

2 We'll make that Exhibit -- whatever we're  
3 on now, No. 4, I believe, or No. 5.

4 And I just have a few questions about  
5 this. I don't know if you have it with you there.  
6 It might be easier to look at.

7 But I'll take us to what I am now showing  
8 as Invoice No. 26196. I believe that's the first  
9 invoice chronologically that we have related to  
10 your work in this case. And I just want to confirm  
11 a few things.

12 It appears -- appears that the new file  
13 intake or setup occurred on December 16th of 2021.

14 Is that fair to indicate that would be  
15 your company's first involvement with this case?

16 A Yes.

17 Q All right. And do you normally on your  
18 invoices indicate when you have communications with  
19 the client, and the client being the lawyers that  
20 have retained you?

21 A I would say no. If there's a formal  
22 meeting set up or something, the office will  
23 normally get it billed that way. But if I just  
24 accept a phone call or -- then probably doesn't get  
25 recorded that way.

1 Q Well, on -- on December 21st, 2021, I  
2 believe, someone from your office charging at a  
3 rate of \$150 indicates a telephone conference with  
4 a client. Is that what's kind of indicated on  
5 this? See on December 21st?

6 A Yes.

7 Q I notice that you don't indicate the  
8 actual name of the person working on it, there's  
9 just the rate.

10 So do you recall who the project  
11 engineers or the other individuals on this who  
12 worked on -- on this action matter for you?

13 I know you can tell by the rate that  
14 \$150 rate is going to be a project engineer, a  
15 \$400 rate is going to be the chief engineer, which  
16 I assume is you. Is all of that correct?

17 A Yes.

18 Q And then \$105 or \$100 might be a project  
19 manager?

20 A A staff engineer-type person, yes. Could  
21 be some project management there, too. But it's a  
22 junior -- junior technical person. Could be a  
23 project manager or it could be a staff engineer.

24 Q Right. And do you have a list anywhere  
25 of the actual project managers, project engineers

1 and other individuals that worked on this case with  
2 you?

3 A I don't.

4 Q Okay. And is there any way to determine  
5 that, I mean, who was involved? It's -- it's not  
6 indicated on the billing. I guess you'd have to  
7 look back at each of these individual billing  
8 records to determine which people were involved?

9 A Right. I don't know if that exists or  
10 not. The work I'm -- that was initial setup work  
11 which probably -- you know, it's -- a lot of that  
12 is just busy work.

13 It's very vital to us, but it's pulling  
14 the specifications, getting Google aerial set up,  
15 you know, reading through the initial accident  
16 report.

17 So it's -- it's -- I don't know who did  
18 that at that point in time. I know who's done it  
19 now, but not at that time.

20 Q Fair enough.

21 Well, just -- with regard to your  
22 activities here in the month of December of 2021,  
23 there's what appears to be two entries. Both are  
24 for engineering analysis. One on the 17th and one  
25 on the 21st. Is that --

1 A Yes, sir.

2 Q Is that correct?

3 A Yeah, and that's -- and that was a good  
4 example because more than likely I was involved in  
5 the telephone conference, but it just says  
6 engineering analysis.

7 So a junior engineer reviewed the  
8 materials, had a telephone conference with the  
9 client. I was also on that call looking at the  
10 bill, but it just didn't show up on -- on my entry,  
11 so.

12 This -- that's -- just trying to clarify.  
13 Hope it helps.

14 Q No, sure. That makes sense.

15 You would have put down all of the time  
16 for your work on the case other than potentially,  
17 you know, communications with the client; is that  
18 right?

19 A No. If I'm in the back working -- I say  
20 in the back, most of the engineering goes on in the  
21 back office, and I go up and I talk to somebody  
22 about a case, you know, if it's an informal  
23 meeting, we're going over what they're doing, you  
24 know, that doesn't get billed.

25 If they come in here and schedule some

1 time it'll -- it'll get captured a lot better.

2 But, you know, my aiding the staff, is  
3 part of my job as the chief engineer, so that  
4 doesn't always get billed.

5 If it's something specific that directly  
6 requires me to sit down and -- and, you know,  
7 schedule some time to do it, it will tend -- tend  
8 to show up on the bill.

9 Q All right. Well, is it fair to say that  
10 in December you -- you billed 2.5 hours for  
11 engineering analysis?

12 A Yes.

13 Q And you say there may be some additional  
14 time you worked on this case, but you're not sure?

15 A Right. Normally it's going to be a  
16 little bit. But, you know, two and a half is what  
17 we billed and two and a half is a good number.

18 Q Right. And then if we turn to the next  
19 page, this is for January of 2022, and it doesn't  
20 appear that you billed any time during that time  
21 period for work on this case, correct?

22 A That is correct, yes.

23 Q And if we go to the next invoice, this is  
24 for the time period -- there's one day in  
25 January -- but it's mostly for February of 2022.

1 And it doesn't appear -- it appears at this point  
2 that you billed for one hour of work on 2/22?

3 A Yes.

4 Q All right. And you have virtual vehicle  
5 inspection listed as your work.

6 Just what -- what does that mean exactly?  
7 What's a virtual vehicle inspection?

8 A Sure. James Fries, with my office  
9 F-R-I-E-S, looked at both the vehicles, and he  
10 included me via a Zoom-type device so that I could  
11 -- he does the preliminary inspections. He  
12 contacts me. I look at what I want to look at, we  
13 talk about the work we're going to do, and then he  
14 proceeds to do it.

15 So that's -- that's a convenient way to  
16 involve me without me having to travel all the way  
17 to Atlanta or wherever the vehicle happened to be  
18 at that moment.

19 Q Great. That's what I thought.

20 So he actually traveled -- and I can't  
21 tell which day exactly. I guess, the CDR download  
22 probably would have been loaded later, but sometime  
23 in February he actually performed a visual -- a  
24 physical -- blah -- a visual inspection of the  
25 vehicle and a CDR download; is that correct?



1           A       I think he did more than a visual, but  
2       yes, he did an inspection of both vehicles and a  
3       CDR download of the truck.

4           Q       Yeah. And when I say "visual," I just  
5       mean he was actually there?

6           A       Yes.

7           Q       Yeah. And then I know he did scans and  
8       other things. I -- I didn't mean to exclude that,  
9       but he was --

10          A       Okay.

11          Q       Yeah. And this is the first time someone  
12       from your office actually was physically present  
13       with the vehicles involved in the incident?

14          A       Yes.

15          Q       Okay. All right. Just quickly going to  
16       the next invoice which is No. 26627.

17                   There's a charge here for "Other: Lift  
18       Kit." Can you explain that? Were there multiple  
19       lift kits purchased from Rough Country or what's  
20       occurring there?

21          A       Right, we bought two lift kits. I think  
22       early on -- you know, so we bought a 4 1/2-inch and  
23       6-inch lift kit from Rough Country just as  
24       exemplars to have to look at.

25          Q       At this point had you determined whether

1 a 4 1/2- or 6-inch lift was on the vehicle?

2 A Not fully. We knew the front of the  
3 truck had gone up 6 inches, but I think we had  
4 indications it was a 4 1/2-inch lift, so we looked  
5 at both of those.

6 I don't remember the exact process,  
7 thought process at that time, though, but there was  
8 -- there was always, you know, an observation that  
9 it was near a 6-inch lift.

10 But also I believe we also had been told  
11 or had documentation it was a 4 -- 4 1/2-inch lift.

12 Q And so during the vehicle inspection in  
13 February, Mr. Fries -- is that how you pronounce  
14 his name?

15 A Fries (pronunciation), yes.

16 Q Yeah. That he had -- he was not able to  
17 determine size of lift kit during that inspection?

18 A Yeah, because of the confusion, yes.

19 Q Right.

20 A Quite possibly.

21 Q And -- and what was the purpose of  
22 obtaining exemplar lift kits? What -- what did you  
23 intend to do with them?

24 A Just more information. Clearly, I wanted  
25 to see what the individual components were. The

1 Rough Country diagrams we had gotten from the  
2 internet or wherever, they showed the same pictures  
3 for the 4 1/2 kit and the 6-inch kit.

4 In other words, you can't tell from the  
5 images that we were able to find the difference  
6 between them. So we said, well, let's just --  
7 let's order them and make sure we're, you know --  
8 we're not being fooled by a picture, which we were  
9 being fooled by a picture.

10 Q When you say you're being fooled by a  
11 picture, what do you mean? You couldn't --

12 A The images that we were able to find for  
13 a 4 1/2 and a 6-inch lift kit were the same image.

14 So we -- we -- we -- we realized that  
15 that was not -- that the information we could get  
16 was not reliable. So we said, okay, let's just --  
17 let's order the kit.

18 Q Are you relying upon your inspection of  
19 the exemplar lift kits to give your opinions in  
20 this case?

21 A I would say no because we have  
22 documentation of it being a 4 1/2-inch lift kit  
23 now, so I would say no.

24 Q Okay. I was hoping you would say that.  
25 I didn't want to waste your time asking questions

1 about what you ordered and when you ordered and all  
2 of that stuff, but if --

3 A Sure. Thank you.

4 Q So moving ahead to Invoice 27114-A. And  
5 there's a charge on September 29th of 2022 for  
6 "Base: vehicle scan processing."

7 And then the next invoice has similar  
8 charges in October for "Base: scene drawing; Base:  
9 Vehicle drawing; Base: scene/vehicle drawing."

10 Just kind of tell me what -- what do  
11 those represent and what's going on there.

12 A Sure. Base refers to just objective data  
13 that's visible. The shape of the vehicle. The  
14 outline from the measurements. The shape of the  
15 scene.

16 The officers did a great job of  
17 photographing and making photo mosaics. Well, we  
18 turned those into drawings, you know, so that we  
19 can make measurements on them.

20 You know, it's just -- it's the  
21 background work to help with the later on detail  
22 reconstruction. This is foundational work that's  
23 going on that you're looking at here.

24 The scans were taken. We have to process  
25 the scans, we can use it to make measurements and

1 that type of stuff.

2 Q That's what I thought. So these are  
3 processing the scans that Mr. Fries took back in --  
4 in February of that year?

5 A Yes.

6 Q All right. And scene drawing, have you  
7 guys -- no one had been to the scene in October of  
8 2022, correct?

9 A That's correct.

10 Q So when you say base scene drawing,  
11 what's that mean?

12 And then he's using photographs that the  
13 police took that you referenced, but how are  
14 they -- they doing that?

15 A The officers made a scale diagram. So we  
16 import their scale diagram. So we draw on top of  
17 them. We also use aerials.

18 We're going to check their work, and  
19 that's what's going on here. And that can all be  
20 done, you know, in-house with information we have  
21 available over the -- you know, from Google and  
22 other aerial services we use and that type of  
23 stuff. So that's all that's going on here.

24 Q Okay. Moving forward to Invoice 27394-A,  
25 there's a reference to exemplar car seats.

1 Was there more than one exemplar seat  
2 purchased?

3 A I only remember one.

4 Q All right. And do you remember the date  
5 of manufacture of that exemplar seat?

6 A Excuse me. I coughed.

7 No, I don't remember the date of  
8 manufacture. It was the same seat as far as we  
9 could tell, though.

10 I don't remember everything that we went  
11 through to tell that, but it was -- really it was  
12 the shape.

13 We were going to test it for -- we were  
14 going to use it as a mockup to look at the geometry  
15 of the seat and they matched perfectly there.

16 Q And you -- you used it to place it in the  
17 exemplar 2015 -- I'm sorry, the exemplar 2010 Ford  
18 Escape that you used in the -- for the model?

19 A Yes.

20 Q All right. And do you have any  
21 documentation anywhere in your file as to when that  
22 was purchased, who it was purchased from, what year  
23 it was manufactured, anything like that that would  
24 validate that it was the same as the seat involved  
25 in the subject crash?

1           A       Well, I validated it looking at it  
2       because that's -- that's what I wanted.

3                   But we can -- I'm sure there's some  
4       documentation. We have the seat itself somewhere  
5       that we could provide.

6                   So whatever someone needs, we could -- we  
7       could go back and crowbar it out of a file  
8       somewhere or maybe make the seat available.

9           Q       Sure. Well, thanks.

10                   I'm trying to get through this as fast as  
11       I can and then we can take a break, if that's okay  
12       with you. Don't want to leave it up to me to make  
13       you not be able to have a break.

14           A       Just for -- that was really hard to  
15       understand. All you said was we'll take a break  
16       when we need to, thank you, but...

17           Q       Sorry for my poor audio. I apologize. I  
18       was saying -- are you okay for us to just finish up  
19       with these bills before we take a break? I didn't  
20       mean to go on and on without giving you an  
21       opportunity for a break.

22           A       Thank you. I'm -- I'm waiting on you to  
23       get to the end of bills. I think that's a great  
24       idea.

25           Q       Okay. Great.

1 All right. I've now put up there Invoice  
2 29108-A from September 30th of 2023.

3 And there appears to be a bill here of  
4 14.75, I guess that's hours, and that's at the rate  
5 of 450. So I assume that's you on September 6th of  
6 2023.

7 Would that reflect you actually making a  
8 trip to see the accident vehicles in person?

9 A Yes.

10 Q And that's the first time you actually  
11 saw them in person?

12 A Right, before I -- via video during the  
13 inspections, but I actually was there in person for  
14 the first time here.

15 Q Sure. And how much of this 14 -- does  
16 the 14.75 include travel time as well?

17 A I -- I wouldn't think so, but I don't --  
18 I don't remember exactly. I was there -- in my  
19 memory, I was there for seven or eight hours, so  
20 it's probably just -- maybe just one-way travel.  
21 We were there for a long time.

22 Q That's what I was getting at. So you'd  
23 estimate you visually inspected the vehicles -- and  
24 I know you might have done other things other than  
25 just look at it, but you were there for seven to



1 eight hours on that day?

2 A That's an estimate. I don't -- I don't  
3 remember exactly how many, but it was -- I was  
4 there for, yeah, more than five I'm certain of. I  
5 -- I don't know the exact time.

6 So looking at that it looked like --  
7 14.75 looks like too short a day to drive from here  
8 to there and do that and get back, but...

9 And -- yeah, I had -- I had help with me,  
10 too, that's not on the bill. I don't know why.

11 Q I would assume someone was there with  
12 you, but that -- that person's time is not  
13 reflected on this bill?

14 A Right. One of the project engineers or  
15 the project engineer for this case went with me.  
16 She had already seen the vehicle once before, so.

17 Q And what was her name?

18 A Melanie Porter, P-O-R-T-E-R.

19 Q Right. And I did not have anywhere here  
20 where I saw that Melanie had visited the vehicles  
21 in person prior to this, but -- but you're saying  
22 she did and maybe just wasn't reflected on the  
23 invoices?

24 A No, she did. She -- when the car seat  
25 was put in the accident vehicle, she did that and

1 scanned. So you alluded at it a few minutes ago.  
2 That was -- Ms. Porter did that. So she had seen  
3 the vehicles before.

4 Q All right. And I think if you look at  
5 the next invoice which has got the same number, I  
6 think it's the -- I should have shown you the first  
7 page of it.

8 You'll see at the very bottom where it  
9 appears that she billed the same amount of time for  
10 "Document accident vehicles;travel" on 9/6.

11 A You're right. Thank you.

12 Q Yeah, I didn't --

13 A I didn't want to leave anything out.

14 Q Yeah, I didn't realize this was the same.  
15 Because this was basically the same invoice. I  
16 apologize.

17 On this invoice here where there is a  
18 reference to "Engineering analysis; review file and  
19 reconstruction," there are quite a number of  
20 entries that reflect that.

21 Is this reference to reconstruction --  
22 what is that referencing?

23 Is it referencing your reconstruction of  
24 the actual accident or is it referencing the HVE  
25 reconstruction or simulation?

1           A       It could be any of that. Depending on  
2       how someone put it on their time sheet, we wouldn't  
3       -- we wouldn't differentiate between those two  
4       activities.

5           Q       So there's no way to differentiate from  
6       your invoices how much time was spent on the HVE  
7       simulation?

8           A       Right. The HVE is really a small part of  
9       the total work. We -- we ran the calculations, but  
10      it's -- it's in here somewhere. I don't know where  
11      it is. But, yeah, it's -- it's just a tool. But  
12      most of this would not be related to HVE.

13          Q       Right. Do you know how much time was  
14      spent on the HVE simulator?

15          A       No, sir, not off the top of my head.

16          Q       Do you know when it was performed?

17          A       I -- I don't have a date memory. I --  
18      people have to still me it's 2024, so, no.

19                   We've changed. Can I take a break?

20          Q       Yeah, I was just looking at some real  
21      quick. We can take a break.

22          A       If we're not done with the bills, let's  
23      go back and finish them. I -- I didn't mean to  
24      interrupt you. I thought you were shifting gears.

25          Q       Well, my only other real question about

1 billing is that the last one that I had on the  
2 screen was the last one that we have in time.

3 A Okay.

4 Q And I was curious whether there's been  
5 additional invoicing since then?

6 A No, there has not.

7 Q All right. And I put my -- let me take  
8 it off of sharing.

9 You've obviously done work since the end  
10 of September of 2023 on this case, correct?

11 A Yes.

12 Q And your report was in October of 2023.

13 Since the issuance of your report, have  
14 you done any work on this case other than preparing  
15 for today?

16 A Other than just trying to stay up to  
17 speed, no. There's only been Bate stamping things  
18 and, you know, I think the depo's been scheduled a  
19 couple of times. I don't mean to infer anything.

20 It's just -- yeah, it's been -- but I --  
21 practically I don't know that any real work's  
22 happened, but I could be wrong.

23 Q Well, that's what I'm getting on. There  
24 -- you're not aware of any additional simulations,  
25 any additional trips to the vehicles, trips to the

1 scene, anything of that nature, that's occurred in  
2 this case since the time of these bills?

3 A That's correct.

4 Q Okay. And one last thing on this bill.  
5 There's a bill for "Scene visit; travel" on  
6 July 14th of 2023.

7 I'm assuming that's the first time that  
8 you visited the scene of the accident?

9 A Yes.

10 Q And it's the first time that anyone from  
11 your office visited the scene of the accident?

12 A Yes.

13 Q And the purpose of that visit was to scan  
14 the scene of the accident?

15 A No. The officers did -- we confirmed  
16 through our drawings we thought that their drawings  
17 were accurate, so our work -- I went to the scene  
18 personally to look at it, make sure we weren't  
19 missing some information that we needed.

20 I don't remember scanning it that day. I  
21 don't think I needed to. So, I think I took  
22 photographs and we're happy using the officer's  
23 foundation of what they documented. They did a  
24 fine job.

25 Q All right. In totaling these invoices, I

1 have approximately \$65,000 in billings reflected on  
2 this invoice. I wouldn't expect you to know off  
3 the top of your head the total amount.

4 But does that sound like a fair  
5 representation of your billing through the end of  
6 September 2023?

7 A Oh, yes, sir.

8 Q All right.

9 MR. HILL: Why don't we take a break now.  
10 I appreciate it.

11 THE WITNESS: All right. Thank you,  
12 Rick. Back in a moment, Mr. Hill.

13 VIDEO TECHNICIAN: The time is 12:32. We  
14 are off the record.

15 (Recess taken.)

16 VIDEO TECHNICIAN: The time is 12:48. We  
17 are back on the record.

18 MR. HILL: Thank you.

19 BY MR. HILL:

20 Q One last question that kind of relates to  
21 what we were just talking about. I thought I'd  
22 start with that.

23 And that is, you indicated from the  
24 billing records you can't tell when the simulation  
25 was run using HVE, but you mentioned that after it

1 was run you would print out the reports it  
2 generated and you have hard copies of those?

3 A That's my understanding, yes, sir.

4 Q All right. And when would those have  
5 been printed out? Would it have been right after  
6 the simulation was run?

7 A Yeah, it says 10/13 of '23.

8 Q Right. So that would be -- would that  
9 indicate to you that that was the date that the  
10 simulation was ran?

11 A That would be my starting preliminary  
12 belief, yes, sir.

13 Q All right. Great.

14 All right. Let me see if I can share my  
15 screen again.

16 A Okay. Let me update that.

17 Q All right.

18 A See, if I'm looking at 10/13 of '23,  
19 that's a print date. The report says 10/12 of '23,  
20 and we had referenced it. So apparently in  
21 collecting our materials that went into the report  
22 it was printed.

23 So it was run maybe a day or two before,  
24 but the reports were printed the day after the  
25 report just for filing. Thank you.

1 Q All right. But you -- but you believe  
2 the simulation was run a day or two before that?

3 A Yes. I don't know if it was a day or two  
4 or a week or two, but before that, yes, sir.

5 Q All right. So you believe the date on  
6 this is just the day it was printed, not the date  
7 it was run?

8 A We're -- we're swapping -- we're being  
9 too fine here. It could have -- it was definitely  
10 run before the report went out. What -- the  
11 printing we have is on the -- the day after the  
12 report went out.

13 Someone may have rerun it the day after  
14 to generate the reports, but -- but all the  
15 information I needed and wanted, I've been able to  
16 look at before the report. I don't know whether it  
17 was run and just wasn't printed or whether it was  
18 rerun for the purpose of printing after the date.

19 Q I understand.

20 A Thanks.

21 Q So you would have referenced the digital  
22 file in preparing the report and not necessarily  
23 needed a printed version of it?

24 A No, I -- I like to work off of a printed  
25 version. I -- I -- but I trust the staff to print



1 copies and put them in the file. I'm -- I'm  
2 working on a printed version and I'll throw mine  
3 away when I get done. They're supposed to give me  
4 a copy and have a copy.

5 But it's kind of messy, too, because, you  
6 know, we're -- we're really not worried about  
7 printing at that point in time, we're worried about  
8 engineering, which is, believe it or not, two  
9 different worlds.

10 Q Sure.

11 MR. HILL: I'm sharing the screen. We  
12 can mark this as whatever we're on now. I think  
13 Exhibit 6 maybe?

14 THE COURT REPORTER: Correct.

15 (Deposition Exhibit 6 marked.)

16 BY MR. HILL:

17 Q And this is -- I'm sure you've got a copy  
18 of this there in front of you, Mr. Buchner. You  
19 probably -- it would be easier for you to refer to  
20 your hard copy, but this is your October 12th, 2023  
21 report we were just mentioning?

22 A Yes.

23 Q It is Bates labeled Bryson 1350 through  
24 1361.

25 Have you amended or changed or done

1 anything to this report since October 12th of 2023  
2 or is this still your current version of your  
3 report?

4 A Still my current version. I only have  
5 one typo in the report. We said the airbags of the  
6 F250 deployed, they didn't. That was a -- that was  
7 a typo somewhere in the report. Other than that,  
8 no, sir.

9 Q All right. So have you gone back and  
10 changed the report or is that -- you're just  
11 pointing out something you noticed in reviewing for  
12 the deposition?

13 A Yes.

14 Q Okay. And I'm assuming you have that in  
15 front of you so I don't have to have it up on the  
16 screen?

17 A I do, but I'm -- I -- it's very easy for  
18 me to read it if you'll leave it up, but however  
19 you want to do it.

20 Q Okay. Great. Well, let me -- hold on  
21 one second. Just -- this is related to it.

22 All right. I've now put on the screen  
23 Bryson 1362 through 1374. And in your digital  
24 files this is entitled Support for your report.

25 Is this something that is part of your

1 report, is it just like an attachment to the  
2 report? Like how would you describe this document?

3 A I -- I don't know. It's -- it's  
4 materials that I think help you interpret the  
5 report if you want to dig deep. They're reference  
6 materials.

7 I don't remember whether it was formally  
8 attached or just sent as support information, you  
9 know, for the reader's benefit. I -- I don't  
10 remember. I don't know how to call it.

11 MR. HILL: All right. We'll mark what I  
12 just mentioned, 1362 through 1374, as Exhibit 7 if  
13 I'm correct.

14 (Deposition Exhibit 7 marked.)

15 BY MR. HILL:

16 Q And you're okay with the title "Support"?

17 A Report support, sure.

18 Q All right. Sure.

19 All right. So here's the report. And if  
20 I don't have it on the right page, tell me at any  
21 time, but it's about time we got down to your  
22 report.

23 So I appreciate you -- you having the  
24 patience going through all of that introductory  
25 stuff. Hopefully, that will make a lot of this go

1 faster.

2 A Okay.

3 Q On -- on Page 1, you note that the posted  
4 speed limit was 55 miles per hour at this incident.

5 Did you during your site visit to the  
6 scene confirm that when you were at the scene?

7 A No, I can go back and look. But I'm  
8 aware that in one place the officers said 45, and  
9 in another place they said 55.

10 I -- I didn't have a thought to go back  
11 and check my scene visit to see which one it was.  
12 It doesn't make a difference to my opinions.

13 Q Sure. It makes no difference, we're just  
14 -- I just want to make sure we're on the same page  
15 with any typos and so forth.

16 Like on the very next page, Page 2, under  
17 Work Performed, you said that your group inspected  
18 and documented the two vehicles between February  
19 2021 and September 2023?

20 A Yes.

21 Q Is that a typo there? Is that meant to  
22 be February 2022?

23 A As a matter of fact, it is. Thank you.

24 Q No problem.

25 At one place in your material the -- if

1 you look down here where you're listing the  
2 exemplar vehicles, you have a 2008 Ford Escape  
3 exemplar vehicle.

4 There was some notification in your  
5 records that the exemplar vehicle was actually a  
6 2010 Ford Escape.

7 Do you know which one is accurate?

8 A I'm thinking to see if I can give you a  
9 clear answer and I don't remember the date of that  
10 vehicle, so I'd have to do a little research.

11 It's --

12 Q Okay.

13 A And it's specific to the exemplar.

14 Q As we go through we may look at some  
15 documents that may clear that up. Just was curious  
16 if that was just another typo or if that's actually  
17 accurate.

18 A Thank you. I'll -- I'll watch to help  
19 clear that up if we can.

20 Q All right. Next we're on Page 3 under a  
21 section entitled Observations. The very last  
22 bullet point under Observations related to the  
23 Escape. You say: "The rear bumper of the Escape  
24 was only slightly bent."

25 A Yes.

1 Q What do you mean by "slightly bent"?

2 A It was very unremarkable in the amount of  
3 damage to it. In other words, I've seen cars in  
4 minor collisions that had bumpers that were bent  
5 this badly and still on the vehicle, you know, and  
6 I'm talking about a vehicle, the vehicle drives off  
7 and, in fact, you have to look under the bumper  
8 cover to see this damage because the bumper cover  
9 goes in and bounces out.

10 And so the photos show what it looked  
11 like, but it was very unremarkable in the amount of  
12 damage to it relative to the severity of the crash.

13 Q Was the bumper of the Escape on the  
14 vehicle when you inspected it?

15 A By that time it was off if my -- it was  
16 hang -- it was -- it had dropped off. Gone after  
17 the accident hanging by a thread more or less, but  
18 then by the time I saw it, it had come completely  
19 off.

20 Q Sure. And did you look at the brackets  
21 that support the rear bumper?

22 A Yeah, they were still on the bumper.  
23 They had torn away from the frame rails or the  
24 frame rails had torn away.

25 So, yeah, they had for -- damage for the

1 bumper had allowed the bumper to come off, but the  
2 metal that it had been bolted to was still attached  
3 to the bumper. And the metal had been ripped and  
4 torn apart to allow it to dislodge.

5 Q Gotcha. And the holes in the brackets,  
6 were they deformed or elongated? Would that be a  
7 proper way to describe it?

8 A I don't remember that. I'd have to go  
9 back and look. I -- I remember more the more  
10 significant frame rails were basically -- we call  
11 them frame rails. That's what I like to call them,  
12 but the unibody rails, were -- were -- were torn.  
13 But we can look at the photos. I don't -- I don't  
14 remember the holes themselves being damaged.

15 Q All right.

16 A If I might interrupt.

17 Q Sure.

18 A The exemplar that we saw was manufactured  
19 of 2 of '10. So it actually could have been a --  
20 yeah, 2 of '10, so it was a -- probably a 2010  
21 vehicle.

22 Q Right. And then we're talking about the  
23 Ford Escape exemplar that you used in your  
24 analysis?

25 A Yes, sir.

1           Q     All right. All right. The second to  
2 last bullet point under Observations on Page 3 you  
3 indicate that "The Escape's measured weight was  
4 3,410 pounds at the inspection on February 22nd,  
5 2022."

6           A     Yes.

7           Q     How did you measure the weight of the  
8 Escape on that day?

9           A     We have scales that we carry with us in  
10 our field work trucks. We drove it upon those  
11 scales and photographed and wrote down the  
12 measurements, the weights of the Ford --

13          Q     Right.

14          A     -- tires.

15          Q     Right. Like wheel scales, I guess, would  
16 be a common term for those?

17          A     Sure.

18          Q     Yeah. And -- and who manufactured those  
19 wheel scales, do you know?

20          A     I don't remember. We've had them for a  
21 long time. Same manufacturer we've been using for  
22 20 years.

23          Q     Do you know the capacity and readability  
24 of those scales?

25          A     Some of them have a 10, plus or minus 10,



1 some have a plus or minus 20, I think, but I'd have  
2 to go back and look on them.

3 Q Not sure which -- which one you used in  
4 this case?

5 A We have -- we have local ones we carry,  
6 yes. I don't remember off the top of my head.

7 Q Okay. And they're scales you own? Like  
8 you own those, right?

9 A Yes. Yeah, they're standard. We use  
10 them, you know, every week.

11 Q All right. How often do you calibrate  
12 those?

13 A Well, we -- we self-check them by putting  
14 our vehicles on them. So we -- we know when one's  
15 out of calibration. So we do a calibration check.

16 Whenever we find an issue, we'll have  
17 them recalibrated by the manufacturer. So it's on  
18 an as-needed basis.

19 Every now and then we'll periodically  
20 just send them off anyways. But I don't -- I don't  
21 remember the exact calibration schedule, but we are  
22 checking the calibration.

23 I used to do calibrations at the other  
24 firm I used to work at. So as long I'm getting the  
25 right reading, I'm happy.

1 Q Right. But you can't say here today when  
2 the last time they were calibrated prior to your  
3 using them on February 22nd of 2022?

4 A Right. I just know that we do the  
5 calibration checks regularly so that we'll -- if  
6 there's a problem, we take that one, that one scale  
7 out of rotation and, you know, put another one in  
8 the rotation while that one gets calibrated.

9 Q Right. Given the weight you measured  
10 that day of the post incident version of the  
11 Escape, do you have an opinion about the total  
12 weight of the Escape at the time of the crash?

13 A Yes, I do. It's in my materials. But  
14 basically we just add the weight of the occupants  
15 to it. It still had the --

16 Q Right.

17 A -- it still had the luggage in the back.  
18 It wasn't luggage, but the cargo in the backseat  
19 and the vacuum cleaner and a few other things.

20 Q Yeah, did you in estimating the weight at  
21 the time of the crash account for the items in the  
22 cargo hold?

23 A Yeah, they were in the car.

24 Q Right. But I'm saying -- they were in  
25 the car at the time you weighed it?

1 A Yes.

2 Q Weighed the vehicle?

3 A Yeah.

4 Q Okay. Do you know at the time that you  
5 weighed the car with the cargo in the cargo hold  
6 whether those items were in the same position they  
7 were in after the crash?

8 A Reasonably, yes. They were in the  
9 backseat. I mean, they -- I say in the backseat.  
10 They were in the -- behind the backseat in the  
11 hatch area, in front of the hatch.

12 That's my recollection of -- that's where  
13 they were when I saw them, and that's my  
14 recollection of where they were when we weighed it.

15 Q Yeah. And what I'm trying to get it is,  
16 did -- I don't know if someone took it, took that  
17 cargo out and you put it back in to weigh the  
18 vehicle or it hasn't been touched since the time of  
19 the crash and so you got to see it sort of how it  
20 would have looked at the scene.

21 You know, what is your understanding as  
22 to the location of those items when you saw them in  
23 relation to where they were located at the time of  
24 the crash? That's just what I'm trying to get at.

25 A My understanding and my recollection is

1 that they were reasonably positioned as they were  
2 at the time of the crash, but it would not change  
3 any of my analysis if for some reason someone had  
4 put the vacuum cleaner in the front seat. We'd  
5 still have the right weight for the calculations.

6 But my belief is they were in their  
7 proper locations.

8 Q And did you photograph the location of  
9 those items when you inspected the vehicle in -- in  
10 February of 2022?

11 A I would say yes, but I certainly don't --  
12 out of the thousands of photos we have, I don't  
13 remember that particular photo. We can go look if  
14 you want, but I would say that we're supposed to  
15 document where everything is when we get there, so  
16 I believe it's documented.

17 Q Sure. Kind of what I'm getting at is,  
18 did you do any analysis of the -- and let me put it  
19 this way -- of what may have impacted the child's  
20 head who was in the -- the rear seat? What actual  
21 physical item might have impacted his head?

22 A Well, I'm not the biomechanic. I did do  
23 an analysis, though. I'm -- I'm certainly not  
24 opining anything hit the child's head because  
25 that's not my area of expertise, but I can tell you

1 that the rear seat was pushed to less than a foot  
2 -- within a foot of the front seat.

3 In other words, the child's headrest area  
4 of the car seat was pushed to less than a foot away  
5 from the seat in front of it.

6 So that's information I have that might  
7 be helpful, but I'm not here to talk about the  
8 child's head hit or if it did hit anything. It  
9 seemed logical it did, but I'm not -- that's not my  
10 area of expertise.

11 Q I understand. And so you're not a  
12 biomechanical expert who's providing -- going to  
13 provide any testimony about injury mechanisms or  
14 anything like that in this case?

15 A Right. But I will give the measurement  
16 between the headrest and the seat and the back of  
17 the seat in front of it was less than a foot  
18 because that's -- that's part of my geometric  
19 analysis that I've done of the crush of the  
20 vehicles.

21 Q Right. All right. Turning to Page 4  
22 here. Make sure I'm on the right page, if you give  
23 me one second.

24 Here at the top of Page 4, you make a  
25 couple of comments about the F250 tires.

1           The first being that the F250 tires were  
2           about half an inch larger radius than stock tires.  
3           And you're commenting here on the actual vehicle  
4           involved in the incident, correct?

5           A       Yes. Which line are you looking at?

6           Q       It's at the top of Page 4.

7           A       Got it.

8           Q       I don't know if you can see my cursor.

9           A       Yes, that -- so that is the action --  
10          accident tires. Versus the stock tires.

11          Q       All right. So in the previous slide you  
12          mentioned that the ground clearance from original  
13          to the ground clearance of the subject vehicle was  
14          .75 inches.

15          A       Yeah, I said about 10 inches because I'm  
16          trying to measure it when I'm laying on the ground  
17          underneath the truck. And so, I'm -- that's a  
18          measurement that I'm trying to make on a damaged  
19          truck.

20                 The radius on the tires is just a -- it's  
21          a published value or a -- for the tires. It's --  
22          given the size of the tires, that's what it's  
23          supposed to be.

24                 So a quarter inch variability there is  
25          not an issue for me.

1 Q Sure. I understand. I'm just trying to  
2 get an explanation for why if it's only a half-inch  
3 larger radius than stock tires, how is the ground  
4 clearance .75?

5 A Yeah, and you've also got -- there can be  
6 tread differences on the tires itself that --  
7 actually, you know, so the radiuses aren't perfect  
8 calculations either. So, you know, all of that  
9 being within quarter inches, fine with me.

10 Q Sure. Right here at the --

11 A If I might interrupt again.

12 Q Sure.

13 A You asked about weight earlier. The  
14 spare tire for the car got knocked off. So when we  
15 weighed it, I don't think it was in the back. I  
16 think it was in the back -- I think it was  
17 somewhere else, so. Because it was hard -- really  
18 hard to get in and out of the back.

19 So I'm just pointing that out. That  
20 would be the -- the wild card in -- in weighing it,  
21 but -- so the weights could shift around based on  
22 where the spare tire was.

23 Q Sure. But you're going back to the  
24 Escape when you -- the subject Escape?

25 A Yes, sir.

1 Q And the bumper was off as well. Did  
2 you -- did you put that on the scale in any way or  
3 was that another item that would have been --

4 A No.

5 Q -- not included in your measurement?

6 A Well, it would have been just set on the  
7 back of the vehicle for the weight.

8 Q Right, but the spare tire and rim, there  
9 wasn't a way to set it on the back of the vehicle  
10 as part of the measurement?

11 A Right. So it's either floating around  
12 or -- I mean, it's even a chance it wasn't in  
13 there. But it's -- it was in the backseat as best  
14 as I can tell just sitting here.

15 So there's a little bit of variability  
16 because, you know, it was knocked off. And so it  
17 -- I'm just pointing that out because I thought it  
18 was something I forgot to mention in the previous  
19 answer.

20 Q Sure. Thanks.

21 Speaking of weight, the next question is  
22 about the weight of the F250. Your bullet point's  
23 saying it was 8,040 pounds. I'm assuming you  
24 weighed it with the same scales?

25 A Yes.



1 Q And was the cover over the -- the cargo  
2 area of the pickup truck, was that on the F250 when  
3 you weighed it?

4 A Well, however it shows up in our  
5 inspection photos, I'll have to go back and look.  
6 When you say cover, I --

7 Q Yeah.

8 A Go ahead.

9 Q I'm always bad at this word, but, you  
10 know, the tonneau cover, I don't know how --  
11 exactly how you actually pronounce that.

12 A Yeah, let me --

13 Q That's the cover I'm talking about.

14 A I don't remember there being a tonneau  
15 cover on it when we saw it. So might have to  
16 investigate that.

17 I don't remember adding a weight to the  
18 tonneau cover if it had a tonneau cover, but I'll  
19 have to look to see if -- because that term has got  
20 a lot of different term -- ways it can look.

21 So let me just look at a date of accident  
22 photo real quick, please.

23 Q Sure.

24 A All my computers are apparently working  
25 on video right now.

1           Q       We can come back to that. I was just  
2       trying -- you were talking about things that may  
3       not have been included in the measurement of the  
4       weights of the vehicle, so I thought I would  
5       mention it.

6           A       Okay.

7           Q       Again, you can figure it out when we take  
8       a break.

9           A       Sure. No problem. Thank you.

10          Q       All right. Under the section entitled  
11       "Based on the EDR of the -- of the F250," you say  
12       the impact delta-V was 17.92 and the  
13       longitudinal -- you know, longitudinal and .14  
14       lateral.

15                   Is there any difference between the term  
16       impact delta-V and just delta-V? That's a term I  
17       hadn't heard before.

18          A       Just to clarify, delta-V is a generic  
19       term. It can be applied generically where people  
20       understand it, but impact delta-V to me is making  
21       sure that we're understanding that during the  
22       collision the actual delta-V is what we're using  
23       here.

24                   I don't think it --

25          Q       I understand.

1           A       I don't think it makes any difference at  
2       all, it's just the way we happen to write it, but  
3       we're talking about the collision between the two  
4       vehicles.

5           Q       Right. Just wanted to make sure that was  
6       the case in case there was some difference between  
7       delta-V or im- -- and impact delta-V.

8           A       Sure.

9           Q       And you agree that the -- the delta-V  
10      here listed should be in the negative?

11          A       No, negative/positive.

12          Q       Doesn't matter?

13          A       Yeah, it's -- negatives and positives is  
14      relative anyways. But if -- if someone wants to  
15      say it's technically supposed to be negative with  
16      some convention, I'm -- I'm fine with that.

17                 We're -- we're just talking about the  
18      overall magnitude. We understand that the truck  
19      was slowing down. We're not trying to misrepresent  
20      that. It's just the way we wrote it.

21          Q       Sure. And this is where you talk about  
22      airbag deployment. Is that where you said that was  
23      a typo?

24          A       Yes.

25          Q       All right. And do you have any opinion

1 as to why the airbag did not deploy on the F250?

2 A Probably because it hit the -- a very  
3 soft area of the Escape.

4 In other words, the airbag deployment is  
5 based on the -- the rate of deceleration largely of  
6 the vehicle, and the deceleration is going to be  
7 less when you run into something soft and mushy.

8 Q Did you, in looking at the download, note  
9 that there was an airbag error code on the  
10 download? Do you recall that?

11 A I don't remember that, no, sir.

12 Q There was a fault code of U3000-49  
13 indicating an error in the electronic module.

14 Could that be an explanation for why the  
15 airbag didn't deploy?

16 A I might have to go back and look at it.  
17 It hasn't been a concern of mine. You asked a  
18 question and I answered it. I'll do more  
19 investigation --

20 Q Sure.

21 A -- tonight if it's important. It hasn't  
22 really been important to the work we've done.

23 And to go back one, thank you for always  
24 letting me do that.

25 The tonneau cover was on it when we

1 weighed it, it's just open. I -- because the job  
2 box and everything was on it, I think, but it's --  
3 it was definitely on there when we weighed it.  
4 Thank you.

5 Q Okay. Great. Thanks. I'm glad I  
6 pronounced that word correctly. I was afraid you  
7 were going to come out with a different  
8 pronunciation and make me look foolish.

9 A Together we'll try to get these things  
10 right.

11 Q Yeah.

12 All right. Just so we're clear on a  
13 couple of things. How would you define "end of  
14 event time"?

15 A Where is it written, please, sir?

16 Q Well, it's from 49 C.F.R. 563. Kind of  
17 the terms that that code section uses.

18 A Well, I -- I can see -- in the C.F.R. it  
19 may have its very specific definition. I wouldn't  
20 want to disagree with that.

21 But end of event time I would normally  
22 just use as when the event in the download or when  
23 the event in the black box data ends.

24 It wouldn't have to be associated with a  
25 specific event. It could just be when they ended

1 reporting information.

2 So it's kind of a gray term, that -- that  
3 depending on the context we're using it in, might  
4 have slightly different meanings.

5 Q Sure. And same with regard to the term  
6 "time zero." Is that different?

7 A Well, time zero, we use it all the time  
8 in many different situations. So it -- it -- it  
9 floats as well.

10 Time zero is what we normally call  
11 impact, but I'm more than happy to define it  
12 another way for the purpose of a conversation.

13 But time zero is normally the  
14 collision -- time of collision.

15 Q Perfect. I just wondered if I used those  
16 terms later, I wanted to make sure we were on the  
17 same page.

18 A Sure.

19 Q All right. Be happy I skipped over two  
20 pages there.

21 All right. This is Page 6 of your  
22 report, and I believe this is where you start to  
23 describe how you used exemplar vehicles that you  
24 scanned to match up and determine the crush damage,  
25 the static crush damage that occurred in the actual

1 accident.

2 Is that a fair description of what is  
3 being discussed here just so I understand that  
4 we're on the same page?

5 A That's part of it, sure, yes, sir.

6 Q All right. And the exemplar F250 you  
7 used was a 2015?

8 A Yes.

9 Q And what do you mean by you verified it  
10 using the VIN number?

11 A We just pull the specs on both vehicles,  
12 and you -- you use the VIN just to verify that it  
13 is the vehicle we think we're looking at.

14 I mean, we can do it -- it's just the --  
15 the standard way of referencing a particular  
16 vehicle in the industry.

17 Q Okay. So you just use the VIN number to  
18 make sure that the vehicle you were looking at was  
19 actually attached to that VIN number?

20 A We use the VIN number to make sure it was  
21 the right year, make and model of the vehicle for  
22 the study along with we were looking at the vehicle  
23 just to --

24 Q Gotcha.

25 Did you make any comparison of the height

1 of a 2015 Ford F250 to a 2016 Ford F250 in the  
2 stock configuration?

3 A And there's not a difference at all --  
4 from a gross standpoint an individual vehicle can  
5 have different tires on it.

6 You know, in this case that happened in  
7 this one, but it's not because this was a 2015 or  
8 2016, it's just -- this is the exact same truck.  
9 It's just whoever ordered the 20 -- the accident  
10 truck it came with a slightly different tire than  
11 the 2015 that we had available to us.

12 So it is the same truck, there's no -- I  
13 mean, we're -- we're not talking about trim here,  
14 but we're talking about the body of the truck and  
15 the ride of truck and everything is -- is the same.

16 Q Well, was there any difference in the  
17 stock tire size that came with the vehicle from the  
18 manufacturer between the 2015 and the 2016 F250?

19 A Well, you can get 2015 -- so the answer  
20 is, yes, but not necessarily the way you described  
21 it.

22 In this model -- in any -- in this model  
23 year's range, you can buy a truck with different  
24 size tires on it.

25 It so happened that the 20 -- that the



1 accident truck had tires that were .04 inches  
2 potentially or .04 feet taller than the -- than the  
3 2015 that we had. They're both acceptable.

4 And you look at the door of each truck to  
5 see what it came with. And that can be a  
6 supply/demand problem.

7 In other words, the -- the tires can  
8 change because of who the manufacturer is  
9 purchasing the tires from and, you know, there's  
10 all kind of economies that go into that.

11 So, yeah, there -- there was a different  
12 -- not necessarily because it was a different year,  
13 it's just the two trucks had different tires on  
14 them.

15 Q Yeah, and I -- I think you're comparing  
16 the subject truck to the exemplar you used. We  
17 know that there were aftermarket tires installed on  
18 the subject truck.

19 But if you were to compare a stock, for  
20 lack of a better word, OEM version of a 2016 versus  
21 a 2015 truck, did you account for any difference in  
22 the recommended tire sizes for those two models,  
23 that's what I'm getting at?

24 A Okay. Yes. And a better answer to your  
25 question, the accident truck came stock with tires

1 that were slightly .04 inches taller than the 2015  
2 stock truck. Then --

3 Q Gotcha.

4 A -- the accident will -- will -- the stock  
5 truck got lifted and also had some slightly larger  
6 tires on it in essence.

7 Q Right. I just want to make sure we were  
8 talking about stock 2016. I was confused there.

9 A Understood. No, it's -- thank you.

10 Q And just because I was kind of confused  
11 there, you say .04 feet or point --

12 A Yes.

13 Q Yeah, so that's about a half an inch, I  
14 guess, or...

15 A Yeah, pretty close to it. Let me  
16 multiply it out.

17 .48 inches. It's a half an inch, yes,  
18 sir.

19 Q And when you used the scan for the 2015  
20 and input it into the HVE, did you adjust it by  
21 that half inch?

22 A Yes. We can change the tire size in HVE,  
23 so we put the tires, the right tires on the vehicle  
24 that were -- they call it a stock 2016 which is the  
25 accident vehicle.

1 Q Gotcha. And just -- what's the mechanism  
2 in HVE for varying the height of the vehicle like  
3 that from the one that you scanned and input into  
4 the model?

5 A Well, you go into its tire selection and  
6 you choose a tire with the right diameter.

7 Q Okay.

8 A So we're -- we're looking for a 34 -- I  
9 think it's a 34-inch diameter tire, but it's in my  
10 material. So we just -- they have a -- you select  
11 the tire with the right -- the right size.

12 Q I gotcha. So the -- the model that you  
13 ran that you rely upon did make that slight  
14 adjustment for the stock tires that would have come  
15 on a 2016 F250? That's all I'm trying to confirm.

16 A Yes. Yes.

17 Q If you look on Page 7 --

18 THE COURT REPORTER: Mr. Hill, we've lost  
19 your audio.

20 THE WITNESS: Mr. Hill, we --

21 VIDEO TECHNICIAN: Would you like to go  
22 off the record, counsel?

23 MS. CANNELLA: Yes.

24 VIDEO TECHNICIAN: The time is 1:25. We  
25 are off the record.

1 (Off the record.)

2 VIDEO TECHNICIAN: The time is -- the  
3 time is 1:28. We are back on the record.

4 BY MR. HILL:

5 Q Okay. On Page 7, I was -- I was asking  
6 about how the measurements were verified of the two  
7 vehicles. And the way it reads is that the  
8 difference in height was determined using the scan  
9 of the exemplar and then the F2 -- the subject F250  
10 and then using the measurements of the subject F250  
11 compared against the exemplar F250.

12 And I'm -- I'm -- is it compared against  
13 the measurements of the exemplar F250? It's --  
14 it's just not clear what's being compared here and  
15 I just want to clear that up.

16 A Okay. There's two things going on.

17 First is, we scan both the accident and  
18 the exemplar. And then from those scans, we can  
19 make measurements.

20 So it's -- that's -- that's one of the  
21 ways -- that's -- that's how the scans are used.  
22 We have to, you know, level them up and account for  
23 the tire size.

24 But then I also can go measure against  
25 the accident F250 with tapes and rulers and do it

1 that way as well, the manual way. So we're doing  
2 it both ways.

3 And then you get a -- I think if we go  
4 through the file, you -- we may find that there's a  
5 slightly different answer between them.

6 But there -- there -- it's always over 6  
7 feet over -- not over 6 feet, over 6 inches of  
8 elevation change. I think 6.1 in one place and I  
9 forget what the other is.

10 So that quarter inch that I was telling  
11 you about earlier, you know, you've got to get  
12 slight variability.

13 So we're -- we're looking -- when we say  
14 "measures," we're using what I physically measure,  
15 what my technicians physically measured, and then  
16 in the scans what we're measuring out of the scans  
17 as well. Or off the CAD drawings once we put them  
18 in -- in CAD.

19 Q All right. And they -- then the --  
20 you're not -- and this may sound like the dumbest  
21 question ever but I want to make sure I understand  
22 it.

23 You're not actually physically measuring  
24 the 2015 exemplar, you're just using the specs and  
25 the CAD drawing; is that right? Or are you

1 actually going out and physically measuring that?

2 A We're -- we're doing both. Because --  
3 no, we're going to -- we're going to approach it  
4 with just pure measurements.

5 I'm going to go to the exemplar. I put a  
6 tape against it. I know what the accident  
7 measurements are. I'm like, okay, this looks like  
8 this many inches. And we have to account for tire  
9 size. So I -- I do it that way and we do it in the  
10 scans as well.

11 And when we're looking for, you know,  
12 redundancy or -- or a confirmation in -- from the  
13 two methods.

14 One's not any better than the others, we  
15 just happen to did it -- do it both ways.

16 Q At the very bottom of Page 6, the last  
17 sentence you've got: "The movement of the headrest  
18 area and the bottom of the seat were compared in  
19 Figure 5."

20 And just to be clear, you're saying that  
21 the movement of the headrest area of the child's  
22 seat in comparison to the bottom of what seat?

23 The bottom -- like what's the -- not  
24 the -- not the car seat but the bottom of, what?

25 A No, the -- of the car seat. The bottom

1 -- the top of the car seat moved farther forward  
2 than the bottom of the car seat.

3 The car seat actually rotated where the  
4 head area -- what I'm going to call the headrest  
5 area because that's what we measured. The headrest  
6 area moved farther forward than the base of the  
7 seat, the base of the car seat.

8 Q That's what I thought. I just wanted to  
9 clarify it.

10 A Sure.

11 Q Thank you.

12 A You're no longer sharing. If you want to  
13 share, it'll -- I'll be quicker at understanding  
14 what you're reading.

15 Q Thanks. I turned off the share when I  
16 was trying to fix the audio problem. Sorry, I  
17 didn't mean to do that.

18 A Understood.

19 Q All right. So Figure 7 here on Page 8 is  
20 showing the maximum engagement as you modeled in  
21 3D.

22 And I guess the initial question would be  
23 was what was the lateral offset of the two vehicles  
24 as you measured based on the combo, you know,  
25 longitudinal center lines?

1           A     All right. I actually asked that  
2     question this morning of myself because I knew you  
3     would ask it and I forgot to go get the answer.

4                     If we just look at the -- if you want me  
5     to measure it quickly, I'll do that, but I don't  
6     have it off the top of my head.

7                     But it's shown there. It's shown, you  
8     know, a foot or so to -- the truck's a foot or so  
9     to the driver side. But I don't have the exact  
10    measurement committed to memory.

11           Q     And you input that same offset into the  
12    HVE simulation?

13           A     Yes, yes.

14           Q     Okay. You did measure it some way,  
15    right?

16           A     Yeah, we did it. I just didn't  
17    memorialize it, but it's in the drawings and  
18    everywhere else. It's just not spit out as a  
19    number.

20           Q     Yeah, I just didn't see it as a number  
21    anywhere and just didn't know if I was just missing  
22    it.

23           A     You didn't miss it. I thought the same  
24    thing. It's -- it's fully contained in the  
25    drawings, but it's not memorialized as a number.



1 And I don't see the drawing I'm looking for, but  
2 I'll -- I'll look for it while we talk and I'll --  
3 I'll give you that number in a minute.

4 Q In this paragraph a little further down  
5 on this page, Page 8, it starts with "A CAD  
6 comparison of the post-crash vehicle." You say  
7 revealed over a half foot of dynamic rebound  
8 occurred?

9 MS. CANNELLA: What was that? What was  
10 that, Rick?

11 MR. HILL: Yeah, I'm sorry. I'll lean in  
12 closer. I apologize about all of this speaker  
13 issues.

14 BY MR. HILL:

15 Q There's a Paragraph on Page 8 that  
16 begins: "A CAD comparison of the post-crash  
17 vehicles," that's what I'm asking about. And you  
18 say it revealed over a half foot of dynamic  
19 rebound.

20 And I'm just curious as to how exactly  
21 did you determine that a half foot of dynamic  
22 rebound, was it just comparing the maximum  
23 engagement with what you measured as with the  
24 static engagement or how is that determined?

25 A You are correct. The static bumper

1 profiles and the profiles give one measurement, but  
2 then we know that there were parts of the vehicles  
3 that touched each other that would require 6 inches  
4 of additional crush for those vehicles to touch.

5 So it's a dynam -- it's a static versus  
6 what we've concluded would be the dynamic crush.

7 Q Yeah, so it's not a calculation, like a  
8 formula, it's just comparing two measurements? And  
9 that's --

10 A Exactly.

11 Q Okay. That's what I was wondering.

12 And I guess you use specific math points  
13 to make those comparisons?

14 A Yes, we did.

15 Q All right. And it's -- it's the match  
16 points that are highlighted with the -- I don't  
17 know, like the shiny tape or whatever it was you  
18 guys used to put a match up to match points.

19 A Yes, it is. Yes, the -- so points that  
20 we documented, marked with tape. And then in  
21 the -- in the 3D world, put those points together  
22 for the static and dynamic crush.

23 Q Okay. Real quick, under this section  
24 with ACM Data Analysis. Talking about the imaging  
25 of the ACM. That was done, I guess, by law

1 enforcement on that date? That was before you were  
2 involved in the case?

3 A Yes.

4 Q And how did -- and this Crash Data  
5 Retrieval Tool 19.3, you just know that from the  
6 ADR readout, that's not referencing what you used;  
7 is that right?

8 A It was in their materials, in the  
9 officers' materials. They reported that. It may  
10 be in the actual printout itself.

11 Q Gotcha.

12 Explain for me how the ACM recorded a  
13 deployment of that when the airbags didn't actually  
14 deploy.

15 A Yeah, that's the actual typo or maybe  
16 there's another one. But the ACM recorded one  
17 event. I don't remember it being a -- it was an --  
18 the airbags did not deploy, so that's -- that's  
19 where I'm seeing a -- a problem. I haven't fully  
20 researched it, but it was a nondeployment event.

21 And remember you asked me earlier about  
22 an error code or something like that. I -- I want  
23 to go back and look at all that, but it was a  
24 nondeployment in actuality. So I think that's a  
25 typo.

1 Q Did ACMs record nondeployment events as  
2 well?

3 A Oh, yeah, sure, yes.

4 Q Okay. Now we're on Page 9. This is the  
5 ACM data. Just a couple of minor points to make  
6 sure I understand it.

7 Your sentence right below the figure  
8 records those delta-Vs, and -- and that's simply --  
9 you presented those values because those are the  
10 ones at the end of the recording?

11 A Yes, that's -- once we believe the  
12 collision is over with, that's the delta-V,  
13 effectively over with.

14 Q All right. Then there's a discussion in  
15 the next paragraph about the speed indication from  
16 how -- how the speed vehicle is indicated in the  
17 ACM.

18 And I guess I'd question, do you know  
19 whether the missed -- the 2016 F250 used wheel  
20 speed or transmission speed?

21 I mean, you seem to reference wheel speed  
22 here, but does it also have transmission speed?

23 A When we say "wheel speed," we're talking  
24 about how fast the truck thinks the wheels are  
25 turning.

1           So it's going to think they're turning a  
2     little -- it's going to think they're -- he's -- he  
3     knows how fast they're turning, but then it's going  
4     to convert that to a speedometer speed.

5           And so, that's all we're talking about  
6     here. When we say wheel speed, it's -- it's  
7     calibrated to calculate the wheel speed, so we're  
8     just talking about the final answer here.

9           What -- how that -- you know, it probably  
10    is mentioned in the transmission, but it can also  
11    be checked with the ABS sensors and things like  
12    that.

13           So I'm not getting into how this exact  
14    truck does it, but it is looking for wheel speed.  
15    I'll use more of a generic term.

16           Q     Yeah, yeah, there's also a three-channel,  
17    you know, speed-sensing system related to the  
18    transmission, and that's just another source of  
19    speed.

20           A     Well, right, but it's calculating wheel  
21    speed out of that. That's what it --

22           Q     Right.

23           A     Yeah.

24           Q     There's a discussion about Momentum  
25    Calculations. I have a few questions about that.

1 All right. When we're -- under this  
2 section, you're -- you're solely talking about the  
3 actual vehicles involved in this accident.

4 This has nothing to do with the exemplar  
5 models that you used, correct?

6 A Yes, sir.

7 Q All right. I just want to make sure.

8 And the vehicle weight you used in these  
9 momentum calculations were the ones you actually  
10 measured on the subject vehicle?

11 A We measured them and then added the  
12 occupant weights on them. We have a whole sheet in  
13 our file about that.

14 Q Right.

15 A Yeah. It's the weighed measurement is  
16 the foundation.

17 Q And what was the coefficient of  
18 restitution that you used in these calculations?

19 A Well, you don't -- in momentum, you don't  
20 use a coefficient of restitution when you have this  
21 type of information. It's -- it's -- it's  
22 accounted for just in the delta-V.

23 Q That's because you have the pre-impact  
24 and post-impact speeds in a delta-V?

25 A Yes.

## Bryson, Santana and Joshua v. Rough Country, LLC

Page 111

1 Q Right.

2 A You -- you could calculate it from this  
3 if you -- potentially but, you know, it -- you  
4 don't need it.

5 Q All right. And you -- you basically  
6 accounted for a zero pre-impact speed for the  
7 Escape --

8 A Yes.

9 Q -- in the calculations?

10 A Yes.

11 Q And then your post-impact speed for the  
12 Escape was what?

13 A 40.6 miles an hour in my calculation.

14 Q Okay. And so the delta-V for the Escape  
15 will be approximately the same; is that right, or  
16 no?

17 A What was the question?

18 Q Yeah. So what was the delta-V of the  
19 Escape?

20 A 40.6.

21 And I misspoke a minute ago. If we input  
22 the 0 miles per hour -- well, anyway, we did it --  
23 we did set up a series of equations that used the  
24 -- that saw for the restitution. I said we didn't  
25 do that, but we did actually -- we did use the

1 coefficient of restitution in this to get  
2 everything to balance out.

3 So we -- we didn't have to, I don't  
4 think, but we did do it. We got -- so I misspoke a  
5 minute ago.

6 It would be -- it would be helpful if I  
7 looked at the calculation before I answered the  
8 question.

9 Q Is this it?

10 A Yes, sir.

11 Q All right. That's why I was asking you  
12 about it.

13 A Yeah.

14 Q This is Bryson 4000. And I guess since  
15 you -- you know -- tell us what -- what you're  
16 doing here with -- with both vehicles here just so  
17 I understand it.

18 You've calculated a restitution of 0.148;  
19 is that correct?

20 A It's actually being used to solve there.  
21 So I think I'd have to go back and -- go back  
22 through the calculation carefully, but the way it's  
23 being put in there, that's the effective  
24 restitution this shows, yes.

25 And let me -- yeah.



1 Q I'm making sure you didn't need to see  
2 any other part of this file to answer that  
3 question.

4 A Pardon me?

5 Q I was just wanting to show you the rest  
6 of this file in case --

7 A Well -- yeah, let me do -- I'm trying --  
8 unfortunately, you're looking at one thing and I'm  
9 trying to look at something else so that I can get  
10 on the same page and sometimes it's a little bit  
11 slow with it. Let me do something here.

12 MR. HILL: Why don't we just take another  
13 quick five-minute break while you look at that  
14 because I kind of maybe need to use the restroom.  
15 I apologize.

16 THE WITNESS: Sure.

17 MR. HILL: If that works.

18 THE WITNESS: That's fine with me.

19 A Basically, we set it up --

20 VIDEO TECHNICIAN: The time is --

21 A -- with a series of equations to get  
22 everything to balance out using restitution.

23 And we got the 51 and the 17.92 to match  
24 along with the weights. So we believe that this is  
25 a good momentum model.

1 I had forgotten, but we did include  
2 restitution. And so, all of our -- all of our  
3 inputs balance with what we believed we know about  
4 the accident using that .148.

5 BY MR. HILL:

6 Q Right. And correct me if I'm wrong, but  
7 when you did the HVE simulation, wouldn't there be  
8 a place to input this same coefficient of  
9 restitution?

10 A Well, there's two different  
11 methodologies, but, yes, you could input that but  
12 it's -- it's really a -- kind of like earlier when  
13 we were measuring how high the truck moved and I  
14 said a quarter inch doesn't matter because you're  
15 really using two different methods. It -- it  
16 may -- it doesn't matter to me.

17 But you're just using a different method  
18 here, another calculation method, which is -- is  
19 robust.

20 So I don't want to mix my methods or  
21 overvalue one above the other. I want to do them  
22 independently and see what all the answers are.

23 So, but yes, someone could put that in  
24 but in HVE it wouldn't quite balance because HVE is  
25 looking at crush. This is not looking at crush.

1 But the answers are probably the same  
2 answers, 40-miles-an-hour delta-V.

3 Q Right. And HVE has to use a coefficient  
4 of restitution in determining its crush analysis,  
5 correct?

6 A Well, yes.

7 Q Right. And you mentioned that the  
8 default coefficient of restitution that was used  
9 when you first ran the simulation did not create  
10 the results that you expected and you had to change  
11 or manipulate that coefficient of restitution to  
12 make HVE create the results that you expected; is  
13 that fair?

14 A To create the results that were measured  
15 by the truck, yes.

16 In other words, HVE has never seen this  
17 crash, it's just a calculation. It's -- this is  
18 just a calculation.

19 Calculations are nothing but simulations  
20 of reality. We never expect a calculation to know  
21 what really happened in the crash, it's just a tool  
22 that we use as engineers to understand it.

23 Q Gotcha.

24 MR. HILL: Let's take that break real  
25 quick. Just a short one.

1 THE WITNESS: Thank you.

2 VIDEO TECHNICIAN: The time is 1:49. We  
3 are off the record.

4 (Recess taken.)

5 VIDEO TECHNICIAN: The time is 1:58. We  
6 are back on the record.

7 BY MR. HILL:

8 Q All right. I've got the -- your report  
9 back up. I hope you can see it. I'm on Page 10  
10 where it is entitled Crush Analysis, that section.

11 A Yes.

12 Q And just to make sure it's clear, this  
13 section refers to your use of mathematical  
14 calculations to estimate the amount of crush in the  
15 hypothetical incident of a stock F250 being  
16 involved in this accident; is that a fair way to  
17 say it?

18 A Yes.

19 Q And -- and this is not really connected  
20 to the simulation section below dealing with the  
21 HVE simulator?

22 They're two separate ways or tools that  
23 you use to try to analyze the amount of crush and  
24 the hypothetical of a nonlifted stock 2016 F250; is  
25 that fair?

1 A Right.

2 Q Okay.

3 A The pre-lifted vehicle. If the  
4 pre-lifted F250 had been in the crash, that's what  
5 we mean.

6 (Deposition Exhibit 8 marked.)

7 BY MR. HILL:

8 Q All right. And if I pull up here -- let  
9 me find it. This is what is listed in your  
10 materials as Crush Analysis, Bates labeled 3990  
11 through 39 -- 999.

12 A Yes.

13 Q Is this -- am I right to refer to this  
14 when I'm talking about the crush analysis you  
15 mentioned on Page 10?

16 A Yes.

17 Q All right. And it starts here with a  
18 depiction and it has the Accident Damage in red and  
19 the Calculated Damage in blue.

20 And what that means calculated damage in  
21 blue is what you believe the crush would have been  
22 in the quote/unquote stock configuration of the  
23 F250.

24 A That's what this method calculates, yes.

25 Q All right. And so it's approximately

1 2.3 feet. You're saying -- what is that -- that's  
2 the delta, meaning, the difference between the  
3 maximum or the crush with the -- with the accident  
4 itself and crush with the stock vehicle?

5 A Yes, that's how much less crush this  
6 method predicts.

7 Q And are both of these lines following --  
8 well, obviously, the blue line is using the  
9 calculated method. The red line, is that from  
10 actual measurements or is that also using the same  
11 method of calculations?

12 A No, that's -- that's where the crush was  
13 on the car, on the Escape in the accident.

14 So the red line is what did happen, the  
15 blue line is what in my opinion using this  
16 methodology would have happened had the vehicle not  
17 been lifted.

18 Q Right. And if we go down to this next  
19 page, 3991, is the same type of -- I don't know the  
20 right word -- showing the same type of -- of change  
21 in crush between the accident damage and -- and  
22 this methodology of calculating crush that's on the  
23 pages we're about to get to, right?

24 The same thing, this is with a Ford F250?

25 A Okay, this is -- yes, in the calculation

1 methodology we were talking about the Ford F250  
2 would have had slightly more crush, and this is  
3 what it would have been.

4 Q Right. And -- and 3992 is the  
5 beginning -- 3993 illustrates how you use this  
6 method to mathematically come to these conclusions?

7 A Yes.

8 Q That's correct, okay.

9 And we have a restitution on 3993 of 0.1.

10 Is that something that was calculated  
11 based on these -- these calculations or was that  
12 just input as part of the calculations?

13 A That's input as part of the calculations.  
14 So that was input.

15 Q So what is the source of that number?  
16 Why did you input .1 as the coefficient of  
17 restitution?

18 A Thought it was a reasonable value.

19 Q Right. And it's -- it's different from  
20 the value calculated with your momentum  
21 calculations of .148?

22 A Yeah, but remember the momentum was -- at  
23 that point -- I -- I didn't point this out earlier.  
24 The .148 is for the accident when the hatch was hit  
25 and we're trying to balance out what did happen in

1 the accident.

2 So it's not representative of what we did  
3 in EDSMAC or the engine dynamics or in the other  
4 calculation because this is -- this is, you know, a  
5 -- the accident condition which is not what we're  
6 trying to model in the other calculations. We're  
7 trying to model a bumper-to-bumper-type hit.

8 Q So you used an estimate of the difference  
9 in the coefficient of restitution if only the  
10 bumper was impacted of .1? And that was just  
11 your --

12 A That's correct.

13 Q -- kind of reasonable value?

14 A Yeah, not only the bumper because other  
15 things will hit, but yeah, the .1 is what I -- what  
16 I used for the stock truck hitting a stock Escape.

17 Q And in your calculations here under the  
18 stock you're assuming that there will be no bumper  
19 override in this hypothetical impact?

20 A I'm not assuming it, I'm -- I'm  
21 concluding it as an engineer based on what I know  
22 about the accident. But, yeah, I don't believe  
23 there is going to be any.

24 Q And you're concluding it based upon what,  
25 just the heights of the two bumpers, based upon the



1 measurements that you used from the exemplar, and  
2 so forth?

3 A I'm using it -- I'm using my study of  
4 this crash in my experience and training. And part  
5 of that is the height, yes, sir.

6 Q What other factors led you to conclude  
7 that there would be no bumper override other than  
8 just purely the measurement of the heights in that  
9 hypothetical situation?

10 A Well, we know -- okay, probably the -- a  
11 factor that may not have been apparent yet but it  
12 is if you look at the drawings and things.

13 The tow hooks of the accident truck went  
14 into the hatch of the Escape, whereas, if the truck  
15 had not been lifted, then the tow hooks would have  
16 actually gone into the rear bumper fascia area and  
17 actually under the -- the bumper bar itself.

18 So once this vehicle engaged, it would  
19 have been impossible for it to go up and over  
20 because you would have had a mechanical  
21 interlocking to hold -- to prevent it from getting  
22 up into the hatch.

23 It's kind of like a stop, if you will.  
24 I'm a -- I'm a -- I'm an engineer. It's -- you  
25 know, if -- if there's something that's underneath

1 the bumper and penetrated underneath it, it can't  
2 come back out and go around the bumper to get up  
3 into the tailgate.

4 So, you know, there is some more  
5 understanding coming in from it, but the other  
6 thing is there's no forces going up or down in the  
7 crash so that, you know, with good bumper-to-bumper  
8 contact they're going to -- they're going to want  
9 to stay married up with the original contact  
10 elevation.

11 Whereas, in the accident, you know, the  
12 -- the Ford F250 bumper actually hit the very top  
13 of the Escape bumper and -- and helped push the  
14 bumper down, bend it down and get the truck up into  
15 the hatch.

16 So those would be the three -- that would  
17 be the main things that I would point to and I  
18 think that's all need to make that observation.

19 Q Sure. If the -- what about if there were  
20 no tow hooks, is that the factor that you're  
21 relying upon the most to say that there would be no  
22 override?

23 A No. No, I'm looking at this particular  
24 accident. I'm pointing that out as a -- I mean, to  
25 me it's kind of like a giant billboard flashing in

1 the sky.

2 But, you know, it's -- it's -- it's  
3 obvious it wouldn't have gone over. But even if it  
4 had been -- even without the tow hooks because of  
5 what I was talking about earlier you would have  
6 flush impact, there's no forces pushing them up or  
7 down.

8 Remarkably you're in the collision phase  
9 to -- to upset that engagement if the -- if the  
10 truck had been a stock truck.

11 Q Gotcha. I just want to make sure I  
12 understand it.

13 So, in your opinion, that the tow hooks  
14 would have played a role in this and would have  
15 gone underneath the bumper of the Escape, that's  
16 based upon just the pure height of the tow hooks in  
17 your belief as to where they would have impacted  
18 the bumper of the Escape?

19 A It is not underneath the bumper,  
20 depending on what we call bumper, but they would --  
21 they would slide underneath the bumper bar that's  
22 inside what's normally called the bumper area.

23 In other words, it would have -- instead  
24 of poking into the tailgate, it would have poked in  
25 -- it would have prevented the truck from being

1 able to rise up and get to the tailgate.

2 That's just in the extreme if someone  
3 thinks, you know, that a normal bumper to bumper it  
4 wouldn't have worked out.

5 Q But -- but you are saying that the tow  
6 hooks would have been the bumper bar in a way that  
7 would have prevented it from overriding the bumper  
8 bar?

9 It would have been below the level of the  
10 bumper bar and gone underneath, is that my  
11 understanding of the record?

12 A Yeah, it would basically serve to keep  
13 the bumpers -- help serve to keep the bumpers  
14 engaged if for some strange reason they didn't want  
15 to which I don't have any evidence of.

16 Q Gotcha.

17 Would it -- is it your opinion that it  
18 would have been impossible for the stock version  
19 with the tow hooks to have overridden the bumper?

20 A Reasonably, yes.

21 Q What do you mean, what's the  
22 qualification of reasonably?

23 A Well, you can tell me all the conditions  
24 that were going on and everything, so.

25 So, but, you know, if you just -- if you

1 just run that F250, a stock F250 in the back of an  
2 Escape, you're not going to override it, no.

3 But I don't -- you're creating a new  
4 accident -- I say you're creating a new accident.  
5 I'm not sure how big your question was, but if they  
6 just hit like they did in this accident, I would  
7 say reasonably it's not -- not possible.

8 Q And when you say "this accident," you  
9 mean the subject accident we know they were higher  
10 and there was override.

11 I'm talking about this hypothetical that  
12 you're analyzing of this crush analysis of a  
13 stock version.

14 A Right. Where you change this accident  
15 where a stock truck hits this vehicle the way the  
16 subject truck did, it's just not lifted. No,  
17 there's no reasonable possibility that they're  
18 going to get an override situation out of it.

19 Q Whether there's tow hooks on there or  
20 not?

21 A Right, with or without, but the tow hooks  
22 are going to, you know, just be icing on the cake,  
23 if you will.

24 Q I understand.

25 A Yes.

1 Q But your opinion with or without the tow  
2 hooks, stock configuration, there's no chance of  
3 override?

4 A Right, no reason to chance at all. But,  
5 you know, if I'm showing this to the jury, I'm  
6 going to show them that the tow hooks are going to  
7 hit underneath that bumper bar and it's going to  
8 lock that truck in so that they can have the same  
9 billboard in the sky that I have.

10 I mean, it's got -- if you've got  
11 something indexing and holding them at that  
12 elevation, it's -- it can override it.

13 So to me that's an -- that's an important  
14 argument but it doesn't -- doesn't mean that the  
15 vehicles won't do it if they just hit bumper to  
16 bumper. It's just easier to understand.

17 Q You're just saying that's one element of  
18 your argument that a stock configuration can't  
19 override, and that's the tow hooks would play a  
20 role, that's all you're saying?

21 A Very easy to understand.

22 Q Sure. All right. This page here, 3994  
23 from AutoStats, followed this factor into your  
24 crush analysis using the mathematical point.

25 A The crush -- when -- when we're reporting

1 crush on the Escape sometimes we're just recording  
2 from the back hatch because that's what crushed in  
3 and -- and stopped the truck. The bumper and  
4 everything went down and got bent up.

5 So this is just reminding us that it's  
6 about 5 inches from the back hatch to the bumper  
7 itself.

8 Q And when you say 5 inches, explain that.  
9 When you say -- you mean the bumper protrudes  
10 beyond the hatch about 5 inches?

11 A Yes.

12 Q Okay. And this is -- again, you used the  
13 2010 information from AutoStat?

14 A It's the same as -- it's the same as '08,  
15 yes. It's -- yeah, it's -- all this data is for  
16 that year range of vehicle.

17 I just happened -- or I didn't -- the  
18 staff engineer that did this happened to print the  
19 2010, but it's the same information as the 2008.

20 Q And it has a weight distribution for the  
21 Escape of 57 percent on the front and 43 percent on  
22 the back; is that correct?

23 A Yes.

24 Q That relates to the overall weight or is  
25 that the curb weight on the axis?

1           A       Both. The -- 57 percent of the curb  
2 weight will be on the front axle and 43 percent  
3 will be on the rear axle.

4           Q       And did you use that same distribution  
5 when using the HVE simulation?

6           A       Yes.

7           Q       All right. And then for the -- this is  
8 just -- this page just has the information on the  
9 Escape. Did you use this same type of information  
10 for the F250?

11          A       Yes.

12          Q       All right. That's -- I don't see that  
13 included with your crush analysis. So is there a  
14 page missing from this or --

15          A       No, the -- the specs are in the file.  
16 For some -- when we're doing the crush analysis, we  
17 want to remind ourselves about the difference in  
18 5 inches. That's what's highlighted here.

19                   That wasn't important for the truck  
20 because it used its bumper on everybody.

21                   The weight percentages are in another  
22 part of the file, they just happen to also be on  
23 this page.

24          Q       Okay. And tell me again the significance  
25 of reminding yourself of the 5 inches.



1           A       In the drawings -- and we're not looking  
2       at a specific drawing here, but there's 5 inches  
3       between where the bumper is and where the hatch is  
4       on the Escape.

5                    So because the hatch is the one that  
6       crushed forward when we're -- sometimes when we're  
7       measuring crush, we're measuring displacement of  
8       the hatch.

9                    And we want to remind ourselves that when  
10      we're reporting total crush, we need to add  
11      5 inches to that to measure from the bumper which  
12      is more typical.

13                   So it's just -- it's part of a  
14      conversation when we're talking about crush. It's  
15      not right, it's not wrong, it's just a number. And  
16      we want to remember what the number is.

17           Q       Yeah.

18           A       So like right here see the 3.35 inches on  
19      Page 003995 Bate stamped. That 3.35 is measured to  
20      the hatch. So we need to add 0.4 feet to it to  
21      express the total crush.

22           Q       Talking about crush in relation to the  
23      end of the bar?

24           A       Right, which is where it's normally  
25      expressed from.

1 Q Right. This document labeled 3997, just  
2 explain this for me. This is from Neptune  
3 Engineering. This is an outside source that you  
4 use to, I guess, determine a crush stiffness  
5 coefficient?

6 A Yes.

7 Q All right. And how did you do -- use  
8 this? There's a part that's highlighted. How is  
9 this used in your crush analysis?

10 A For the crush stiffness of the pickup,  
11 this is the crush stiffness that we used. We  
12 needed those values for the calculations in the  
13 analysis that we did. So this is the source.

14 Q And this represents the crush stiffness  
15 of the front bumper of the F250?

16 A The front of the F250 which is generally  
17 expressed at the bumper level, yes.

18 Q And how did you determine the crush  
19 stiffness of the rear bumper of the Escape?

20 A Well, we did two things.

21 No. 1 is there's an essay paper, I  
22 believe, that gives the class of vehicle that it  
23 is.

24 And then when we ran the engineering  
25 dynamics programs, they had stiffnesses in the

1 program already for 2008 Escapes, and we used  
2 those.

3 So we actually ranged it based on two  
4 different sources.

5 Q This is for the rear bumper of the  
6 Escape, not the rear hatch?

7 A Well, it's the rear. When you do crush  
8 stiffness, you don't have to -- you're talking  
9 about one side of the vehicle.

10 You can do side stiffness, you can do  
11 front stiffness, you can do rear stiffness.

12 But we typically measure crush at the  
13 bumper level when calculating stiffness because  
14 that's the part that's designed to take the crash.

15 We can do it at other elevations, but  
16 when you look at something like the Neptune data  
17 where the crush stiffness is in the papers like we  
18 used for the Escape, you're going to see that, you  
19 know, they're -- they're based on bumper level  
20 crush meaning -- but it extends above and below  
21 that, but the measurements are at the bumper level  
22 as part of the protocol.

23 Q So basically the height is -- would be  
24 the height of the bumper that you're using as far  
25 as -- is that right? Or am I misunderstanding

1 this?

2 A You are and you aren't. You're -- I  
3 think technically from a -- there's a good  
4 understanding there on your part.

5 We have to choose where to measure the  
6 crush elevation, although, there's crush above and  
7 below it.

8 We choose a bumper level to measure it so  
9 that when we calculate the stiffness coefficients,  
10 they're representative of crush above and below the  
11 bumper, but we measure it at the bumper level.

12 So we're going to be expressing bumper  
13 level crush using the calculation -- one of the  
14 calculation methodologies we did.

15 But it's not just confining it to the  
16 bumper level, but it's just part of the protocols.

17 Q And that's all I was trying -- that makes  
18 sense.

19 A Okay.

20 Q So if the height of your crush or  
21 deformation calculations is basically at the bumper  
22 level, that's -- correct?

23 A Yeah. The answer is given at bumper  
24 level, yes. But we can adapt it to other levels,  
25 but it's -- the standard protocol is you're --

1 you're looking at bumper level-type crush.

2 Q So when you're doing these calculations,  
3 the items in the cargo area are not going to factor  
4 in when you got to determine crush because they're  
5 above the height of the -- of the calculations; is  
6 that fair?

7 A No.

8 Q Okay. How am I wrong about that?

9 A Pardon? Pardon?

10 Q Well, how -- how am I incorrect in that  
11 statement?

12 A It does include -- first, cargo should  
13 not be part of the strength of a vehicle. If it  
14 is, then that's -- you know, that's -- that means  
15 that we're not really doing a good job at designing  
16 our vehicles or managing our -- our crashes.

17 But the hatch area and damage to it and  
18 the seat fillers and all of that is included in the  
19 crush stiffness coefficients. The strength of  
20 those do affect those coefficients.

21 But the protocol is to measure the static  
22 crush at the bumper level even though we know  
23 there's going to be crush above and below there.

24 It's just the protocol that Campbell and  
25 everybody came up with when they were developing

1 this methodology.

2 We could -- we can adapt it and do it  
3 other different ways. We -- but, no, the standard  
4 way is to do it.

5 Just like, you know, when you want to  
6 learn how tall somebody is you take their shoes  
7 off, but most of us are measured with our shoes on  
8 at the doctor's office. It's okay.

9 Q And I just want to make sure I  
10 understood.

11 So there's no way to account for any  
12 stiffness or any impact of the cargo in the crush  
13 analysis? I mean, that's just -- that's your  
14 opinion, it's not what you do?

15 A It's never done because --

16 MS. CANNELLA: Hold on. Object to the  
17 form of the question as vague.

18 BY MR. HILL:

19 Q Go ahead.

20 A I would say it would -- you could do it,  
21 but it would be a little bit unusual to be thinking  
22 that what was in the cargo area was adding to the  
23 strength of the vehicle. In this case I'm sure it  
24 effectively didn't.

25 I mean, I can pick up the -- the shop vac

1 and tap it on the side and grab it and bend it with  
2 my arms. There's no way that -- that we would  
3 include that in there reasonably.

4 But if you did want to and there was  
5 something in there like, I don't know, something  
6 uncrushable, you know, a -- you know, a safe, then,  
7 yeah, we could -- we could include that in there.

8 But it's in -- but, no, it's not included  
9 because it's not reasonable to include under every  
10 situation I've ever been a part of.

11 Q All right. You know, when you talk about  
12 the deformation of the rear seat, that would be  
13 impacted by items in the cargo area?

14 A Yes.

15 Q All right. And -- and did you factor  
16 that in when -- in any part of your analysis, the  
17 effect of the cargo on the deformation of the rear  
18 seat?

19 A Yeah. Well, yeah, because that's -- we  
20 measure that and we show that and we show the rear  
21 seat was pushed forward. That's an observation.

22 You know, that -- that clearly affected  
23 the survivability of the crash for the occupants.  
24 The occupant space was crushed in.

25 But as far as calculating the strength of

1 that seat, we're not using it because in a normal  
2 crash it's not involved.

3 In the normal crash the strength of the  
4 seat is -- is held to the -- protecting the  
5 occupant and part of them.

6 It's not part of the -- it's not part of  
7 defending the outside of the vehicle bumper, rear  
8 bumper, from a rear impact.

9 So, you know, we're mixing apples and  
10 oranges here, but in this case we measure it so we  
11 can show how far it when in.

12 But when we -- but we're not calculating  
13 how strong that seat is because in the normal event  
14 it's not involved in the crash.

15 Q And when you say "normal event," you mean  
16 when there's no bumper override, that -- is that  
17 what you mean by the term "normal event"?

18 A When the bumper is on top of where I'm  
19 sitting, that's an abnormal event.

20 The truck -- the bumper of this truck  
21 made it in. It doesn't -- however we want to call  
22 it. I'm not trying to -- in this crash, that's all  
23 I'm talking about, is the bumper was in the rear  
24 seat occupant space where the person used to be  
25 sitting. That's abnormal.



1 In the normal event, we got stock  
2 vehicles that hit each other and we can calculate  
3 what that is.

4 So we observe the abnormal event because  
5 it's not normal and then we also can calculate the  
6 normal event which has got a bumper-to-bumper hit.

7 If someone wants to analyze other things  
8 in between, that's fine. We can go try to do that,  
9 but those are the only two things we're looking at  
10 here.

11 Q Yeah, I think you answered. I'm just  
12 saying when you say "normal event," you mean a  
13 bumper-to-bumper impact?

14 A Of stock vehicles, yes.

15 Q Yeah.

16 A Let's say normal like would have happened  
17 in this crash with stock vehicles.

18 Q Let me pull up your report again.

19 A Yes, sir.

20 Q All right. This is Page 11 -- or I'm  
21 sorry, Page 10 of your report, Bryson 1359.

22 And the first bullet point under Analysis  
23 and Conclusions is "The F250 was effectively lifted  
24 over 6 inches."

25 Do you know how far the frame rails were

1 lifted in the -- in the subject vehicle as compared  
2 to a factory F250?

3 A A lot of different questions in there.  
4 But the frame rail -- in the simplest analysis,  
5 this truck was measured -- was, I think, lifted  
6 between 6 and 6 1/2, but over 6, probably less  
7 than -- close to 6 1/2.

8 So if we take off the point, I think it  
9 was 0.4 inches. Let me look at my table here.

10 Yeah, 0.7 inches for the tires would be  
11 -- if you take the tires out of it, you would be  
12 somewhere above probably 5 1/2 inches or near  
13 5 1/2.

14 However, we can also add back in, you  
15 know, the -- we don't want to miss if the lift kit  
16 recommended larger tires than were even on the  
17 accident truck.

18 So, you know, it's -- so if you -- if you  
19 just put the stock tires on, you would be down to  
20 around 5 1/2. If you -- with the frame and the  
21 lift kit.

22 Q I guess the answer is 5 1/2?

23 A Around 5 1/2, yes.

24 Q All right. And you didn't actually  
25 perform any calculations or measurements to

1 determine that, that's just an estimate?

2 A No, I calculated it and we got six -- we  
3 -- so I -- yeah, I did calculations based on the  
4 ranges I had just then.

5 Q You just calculated it during the  
6 deposition yourself?

7 A Yeah. Yeah, I did.

8 Q Okay. But there's not --

9 A To answer your -- to answer your  
10 question.

11 Q Yeah. I was just looking for any  
12 calculations in all the materials you -- you -- you  
13 found.

14 A Thank you. I misunderstood.

15 Q And I guess you're saying that there's no  
16 sheet that I can look to that shows those  
17 calculations other than just being done by you  
18 prior to the deposition?

19 A Yeah.

20 Q Fair?

21 A What you do is you look at the lift that  
22 we calculated and then subtract 0.7 inches.

23 Q All right.

24 A So you take what we already calculated  
25 and measure and then you subtract 0.7 inches to get

1 to the stock tire size.

2 And then that will give you the frame  
3 with stock tire. The actual distance the frame  
4 moved up absent the tires.

5 Q You have a comment in here about the F250  
6 bumper, and is the second bullet point, how far it  
7 penetrated into the rear of the Escape.

8 Is that based upon the deformation in the  
9 rear seat or what is the basis for your conclusion  
10 that the bumper actually went so far in that the  
11 child seat was pushed forward by over 18 inches?

12 And I'm trying to understand how you  
13 determined the location of the bumper at its  
14 maximum intruding level?

15 A We fit -- yeah, that's a -- let me read  
16 here.

17 Yeah, that's the static analysis. We  
18 basically fit the bumper of the truck on to the  
19 tailgate in the damaged condition after they have  
20 rebounded. And we fit those two together.

21 The front bumper of the truck is  
22 literally -- and then we compare that to an  
23 uncrushed Escape -- and the bumper is literally,  
24 you know, in -- in -- in the rear seat area of the  
25 truck -- I mean, of the Escape.

1           That's where it is when you just do a  
2       geometric matching of the two.

3           Q       And you're talking about using crush  
4       standards (inaudible) to place the bumper of the  
5       F250 and it's (inaudible) of components of the  
6       Escape other than the seat?

7           I mean, what -- what are -- what is  
8       the basis for your -- that comparison,  
9       that (inaudible)?

10          MS. CANNELLA: Did you hear that whole  
11       question? I didn't hear it. You cut out a little  
12       bit.

13          Could you read back the question, Madam  
14       Court Reporter, I couldn't hear it.

15          THE COURT REPORTER: I need it repeated,  
16       Mr. Hill.

17          MR. HILL: I'll repeat it. Hopefully it  
18       is better this time.

19       BY MR. HILL:

20          Q       When you overlay, as you just mentioned,  
21       based upon the crush that you observed, you placed  
22       the 250 in sort of its position at its maximum  
23       intrusion. Based upon an overlay.

24          And my question is, how do you determine  
25       from the overlay the full extent of the intrusion

1 of the bumper?

2 A You -- you know the original seat  
3 geometry from the inspection of the exemplar. You  
4 know where it's located. And then you know from  
5 the damaged vehicle how far the crush went forward.

6 And from those we can see that it's  
7 invading the occupant's rear seat area. It's just  
8 a simple fit the Legos together problem.

9 Q How -- I'm sorry. You -- I didn't mean  
10 to --

11 A That's all it is.

12 Q And that's exactly what I was getting at.  
13 Is that it's a measurement of the deflection of the  
14 seat and you're using --

15 A We can do the -- we did do the deflection  
16 of the seat and we can do that. But -- but I think  
17 what you're asking about is, how do we know how far  
18 the bumper went in?

19 That's just -- that's just a pure  
20 measurement from -- or the fitting of the pieces  
21 together and then comparing it to what they used to  
22 look like before they were deformed.

23 Q Right. So -- and what was deformed is  
24 the seat. And so you're measuring how far the seat  
25 was pushed in?

1           A       No, we're not. Well, we can.

2                    Okay. What -- see, you think we're  
3       measuring to the seat. Here we're -- we're just  
4       using the damage on the vehicles as a whole to  
5       locate where the bumper is during the crash.

6                    We -- we know the seat's been moved  
7       around. We -- we locate where it is during the  
8       crash either statically or dynamically.

9                    And then we compare that to where the  
10      seat started out. And the seat started out behind  
11      where the bumper of the truck is.

12                   In other words, I'm not doing it from how  
13      far -- I could do it by how far the seat moved, but  
14      that would be maybe not as accurate and be very  
15      complex.

16                   But we can simply do it from the -- from  
17      the crush on the rear hatch and where it moved to  
18      and -- and the front bumper on the truck and match  
19      them together and know that they're sitting in the  
20      rear seat where the rear seat used to be.

21                   If you know the bumper of the truck is  
22      sitting where there's -- where the seat used to be,  
23      then you know that the rear seat was invaded and  
24      moved.

25           Q       Okay. Back to what I'm getting at. Is

1 that you're measuring it based upon the damage to  
2 the rear hatch and the location of the rear hatch,  
3 not the location of the seat. That's what I was  
4 trying to get.

5 And I thought you earlier said that you  
6 calculated by overlay based upon the movement of  
7 the seat.

8 But now I think I'm hearing you saying  
9 that it was -- the bumper intrusion was calculated  
10 based upon the damage to the hatch and the location  
11 of the hatch?

12 A I think you've changed -- I think you've  
13 changed your question on me and are claiming you  
14 didn't, but -- it's okay, it doesn't matter, the  
15 answer is still the same.

16 You look at the macro damage on the  
17 vehicles and match them together statically and  
18 then dynamically and then you just look -- look  
19 where the seat used to be and also where the seat  
20 is to write these sentences that are on here.

21 Q Okay. But the -- the seat is obviously  
22 going to be impacted by the cargo which is between  
23 the bumper and the seat.

24 And so my point is, you can't measure the  
25 full intrusion of the bumper as it's impacting the



1 location of the seat without also factoring in the  
2 cargo that was between -- will be between the  
3 bumper and the seat.

4 And I think that's what you alluded to  
5 about it being too complex of a -- an analysis  
6 to -- to complete.

7 A I disagree. I think you're -- I think  
8 you're twisting it in a way that I don't fully  
9 understand.

10 You -- we know the cargo is in there and  
11 we know it was flattened, but, you know, we -- we  
12 don't agree with your statement in your question.

13 Again, I don't understand it, but I can't  
14 agree with it, but I don't understand it either.

15 Q Well, maybe I'll try a little bit better  
16 and then we'll move on.

17 But you're talking about (inaudible.)  
18 You can place the bumper at its maximum intrusion  
19 based upon the physical condition of the Escape,  
20 right? We agree on that?

21 A Sure.

22 Q And I'm trying to nail down what physical  
23 attributes of the Escape are you relying upon to  
24 perform that overlay to put the actual Ford emblem  
25 from the F250 on top of the head area of the cargo

1 -- of the child seat.

2 What specific parts of the Escape are you  
3 referencing to make that overlay? That's what I'm  
4 trying to get to.

5 A Okay. In the static condition after  
6 everybody's crashed and crushed and kind of sprung  
7 back a little bit, we use the imprint of the bumper  
8 on the rear hatch primarily.

9 So it's just a -- take the front bumper  
10 of the truck, slide it forward until it marries up  
11 on the rear hatch damage imprint of the bumper.  
12 You've got tow hooks and other things that are  
13 helping you line all of that up.

14 That's -- that's just a static crush  
15 after the accident.

16 But we also know that the roof of the  
17 Escape came down and left two holes in the hood of  
18 the truck. Meaning, that the hinges for the rear  
19 hatch literally came down and hit in the roof and  
20 made two very specific marks and poked holes in it.

21 So those -- those are 6 inches -- a  
22 little over 6 inches from the static crush. So the  
23 truck had to move an additional 6 inches forward  
24 into the Escape for those marks to be left.

25 So we take our static crush, plus a

1 little over 6 inches, I think it is, to get a  
2 dynamic crush.

3 And so we can draw a truck and Escape  
4 that are matched together statically and then we  
5 can move that truck in there another 6 inches and  
6 show the dynamic.

7 And then once we -- once we move it in  
8 there, then because we -- we've got both the  
9 vehicles in a 3D dynamic -- 3D world where we can  
10 look at them and dynamically rotate them. Not move  
11 them, but just rotate them like on video and look  
12 at them, we can see that the Ford logo is sitting,  
13 you know, basically where the headrest area of the  
14 child's seat used to be.

15 Q Okay. That was exactly what I was  
16 getting at. So you're -- you're using crush in the  
17 hatch to establish the static extent of the -- of  
18 the -- of the crush. And then the imprints from  
19 the hatches, the -- the seats or whatever you call  
20 the --

21 A Hinges. Hinges.

22 Q Hinges of the hatch where they impacted  
23 the hood of the F250 to determine your dynamic  
24 crush beyond the static crush, and those two  
25 references on the Escape are what you're using to

1 determine the full extent of the crush from the  
2 F250?

3 A Yes. And there is --

4 Q Okay.

5 A We look at all parts of it at the same  
6 time, but, yeah, that's the easiest explanation and  
7 most straightforward and that's -- that's how we're  
8 doing it.

9 Q And that's shown on this Page 10 when you  
10 say that "the bumper penetrated 4.36 feet into the  
11 rear hatch trunk and rear seat position areas"?

12 A That's what I said.

13 Q You've just explained how you came up  
14 with that number?

15 A Yes.

16 Q Okay. On the top of Page 11, that bullet  
17 point when you say that in the stock configuration,  
18 the crush would have been reduced by nearly 1/2 or  
19 over 2 feet, you're talking about the static  
20 measurement of the crush in that bullet point,  
21 right?

22 A It'll apply to both.

23 Q All right. I'm trying to find something.

24 A I'm going to stand up for a second. I'm  
25 more comfortable standing sometimes. I'm just

1 going to do this and I apologize. I hope it will  
2 work out okay. I don't know if there's a  
3 deposition requirement that the deponent sit.

4 Q All right. I'm sharing the screen.  
5 I'm showing a photograph that's been marked  
6 IMG 1125.jpg.

7 This is taken from the photographs that  
8 we have in your file. I don't have the Bates label  
9 number of it, but it -- it obviously can be  
10 identified by the photograph number.

11 You said upon your -- on Page 11 of your  
12 report that "The Escape bumper level support  
13 structures were largely intact"?

14 A Yes.

15 Q Can you point out in the photograph if  
16 the bumper level support -- support structures are  
17 largely intact?

18 A Sure. The two gray things kind of  
19 sticking down -- no, they're closest to the tires  
20 on the left.

21 Q Here and here (indicating)?

22 A On the left closest to the tire and on  
23 the right -- yes, those two on the right. You  
24 know, you have to go across the bump -- the  
25 muffler.

1 But, yeah, those are -- those are the  
2 rails of the unibody and they're pushed down and  
3 the bumper was torn off of them, but they didn't --  
4 they didn't -- they didn't crush forward like we  
5 expect to see in a rear-end collision based on, you  
6 know, my years of experience.

7 Q So when you say they're largely intact,  
8 that's based upon they were not pushed forward as  
9 much as you would expect based upon your  
10 experience?

11 A Yeah, relatively speaking, they're --  
12 they're there to defend the vehicle and absorb the  
13 forces and they didn't do that. So it's a relative  
14 term, yes.

15 They're -- they're certainly not usable  
16 in a new car or anything, but they're relatively  
17 intact compared to what we see in rear-end  
18 collisions when they get to perform helping to  
19 defend the -- the vehicle.

20 Q All right. Whoops. I'm going back to  
21 your report.

22 All right. This is Page 11 of your  
23 report where you are listing the maximum g's for  
24 the F250 and the maximum for the Escape.

25 A Can you share, please?

1 Q Oh, I'm sorry, I thought I was sharing.  
2 My bad.

3 All right, can you see it now?

4 A Yes, sir.

5 Q All right. When you say "The Escape was  
6 near 23.6 g's," what do you mean by that? What --  
7 did you have to make an actual calculation of it?

8 A Yes. Numbers don't always model reality  
9 perfectly. We try to, you know, use a reasonable  
10 value.

11 The F250 reported a value of 10.4 based  
12 on its weight. The Escape's based on our weights  
13 and the calculation would be near 23.6. It could  
14 be 23.8, could be 23.2, could be, you know,  
15 something in that range, but it's -- that's our  
16 best number.

17 Q Can you perform any type of analysis and  
18 check for calculations like a Monte Carlo analysis  
19 or anything like that?

20 A We -- we chose a different method. We  
21 basically used three -- two different methods and  
22 the two methods gave us a range, so we use that.

23 You know, we -- we could -- we can do it  
24 Monte Carlo, but in this case we -- because we used  
25 two different methods we believe that that gives us

1 a reasonable range.

2 Q And how would you describe those two  
3 methods? What -- what were the -- I'm confused by  
4 that a little bit.

5 A Sure. Well, one's a calculation based on  
6 Campbell's original formulas and the SAE training  
7 courses I've been to and the Northwestern courses  
8 where you -- you calculate based on static --  
9 static crush.

10 And the other is the simulation with  
11 EDSMAC.

12 And then you also just use standard, you  
13 know, physics calculations from accident  
14 reconstruction to help relate the delta-Vs that  
15 were measured in the accident to the delta-Vs based  
16 on the -- the weight ratios and whatnot of the  
17 Escape.

18 So that's -- that's -- that's  
19 fundamentally just physics relationships where data  
20 is known and you want to derive more data from it.

21 So there's three -- really three  
22 different methodologies in calculating the numbers.

23 Now, that's a part from measuring which  
24 is what -- what we did for crush of the accident  
25 vehicle in the accident itself.



1           Q     The very last bullet point on this page,  
2     Page 11, just so I understand it.

3                     When you refer to calculations in that  
4     paragraph -- that bullet point, you have the crush  
5     analysis calculations we looked at for -- they may  
6     be up here but maybe not -- but that's when you say  
7     calculations, you're talking about the crush  
8     analysis calculations that we've already talked  
9     about; is that correct?

10           A     Yes.

11           Q     Are there any other calculations that  
12     support that bullet point?

13           A     No, that's what I'm using.

14           Q     Okay. And then when you say simulations,  
15     you're talking about HVE; is that correct?

16           A     Yeah. Yes.

17           Q     Now, did -- that uses the plural of that.

18                     It's my understanding there was just one  
19     simulation that you ran of the hypothetical  
20     instance of a stock configuration on the F250 being  
21     involved in this accident.

22                     Was there more than that or is there more  
23     than that one simulation?

24           A     There's only that one. Remember, I told  
25     you that when we started it we needed to refine it

1 to produce the output data that matched the F250.

2 So, yeah, when you first put it in, you  
3 have to -- it takes a little bit of work to get it  
4 to the proper simulation.

5 So that's -- that's the reason I think  
6 there's an S in there. It's -- we really weren't  
7 thinking about it when we wrote it because we're  
8 just using the one final one, but that's a  
9 reasonable explanation.

10 Q All right. Are the prior simulations  
11 that you ran, were they saved in any way?

12 A No. If someone wants to rerun them,  
13 they're pretty easy, you just -- I mean, it's --  
14 it's a piece of cake. Like I told you, there's  
15 really only one number that we changed and that's  
16 the relaxation which affects the restitution which  
17 I'm basically changing the restitution.

18 So if someone wants to back -- back work  
19 it, they can.

20 Q Sure. But you didn't keep up on all of  
21 like what restitutions you used in the prior  
22 simulator?

23 A No. We would have basically used an  
24 iterative process -- an iterative process to get  
25 the answer to match the download.

1 Q When you say "match the download," just  
2 so I understand that, what actual data from the  
3 F250 download are you trying to match in running  
4 the HVE stimulator?

5 A The impact speed and the exit speed.

6 Q Right. Any other data you're trying to  
7 match?

8 A No.

9 Q Okay. So you basically change around the  
10 coefficient of restitution until you max those  
11 speeds, and then that's what gives you confidence  
12 that you've got the proper inputs from the HVE  
13 simulation?

14 A Well, we -- you know, we -- we work on  
15 the vehicle itself, geometry, and all of that.  
16 We're not talking about that.

17 From a calculation perspective, yes, we  
18 use -- we -- we put in the crush stiffness  
19 coefficients, which we've talked about.

20 Q Right.

21 A And then we put in the impact speed and  
22 then we vary the restitution or what's also called  
23 the relaxation in that particular program to  
24 produce the 17.92 delta-V, I believe it is, or  
25 17.93. Yes, that's -- that's all we're doing.

1           We're letting the program do its thing,  
2       but we're giving it a little bit of guidance.

3           Q     If you have the program, how -- how does  
4       that DyMESH algorithm work?

5           Do you know how to explain it in -- like  
6       if you have to explain it to the jury, I'd love to  
7       hear what your explanation will be for how that  
8       algorithm works.

9           A     Okay. Well, as I said earlier, it's  
10      based on crush stiffness coefficients that are  
11      derived standardly by measuring damage at bumper  
12      level.

13           But then this particular algorithm looks  
14      at the -- at the whole surface of the front of the  
15      vehicle and -- and tries to do -- take into account  
16      all of the forces.

17           So it actually discounts those AV values  
18      and more or less spreads them out across the front.

19           And then it's just going to do some of  
20      the forces between the -- the back of the Escape  
21      and the front of the truck and it's going to say  
22      that the forces are always balanced.

23           And it's going to determine those forces  
24      from the AV values, which are the strength.

25           But it's also going to use the geometry

1 of the vehicles that are -- are -- that DyMESH  
2 uses.

3 You get an accurate geometry and so it's  
4 actually trying to look at the overall contact  
5 surfaces, not just the bumper level model.

6 Excuse me, let me turn this off.

7 Q Go ahead.

8 A My apologies.

9 So it's -- you know, it's just -- it's --  
10 you used the word "complicated" earlier. It's a  
11 more complicated calculation, more sophisticated  
12 calculation.

13 But it gives virtually the same answer  
14 that we do it -- when we do it the -- the more  
15 classical way using the -- the calculator.

16 Q Does DyMESH know the location of the  
17 vehicle structures such as the frame rail over  
18 where the bumper would be?

19 A It -- it -- it does not. You do not tell  
20 it, you know, exactly where the rails are or  
21 anything like that.

22 It's -- just like in the standard  
23 calculation, you're -- you're giving it  
24 measurements at -- at a height that are usually  
25 bumper level but they don't have to be bumper

1 level, so.

2 But it's -- so really it's -- it's a  
3 variation of what we normally do, but it's doing it  
4 by looking more at the area as opposed to more of a  
5 contact line. And that's really the difference to  
6 it.

7 And engineering dynamics has their own  
8 algorithm for doing that. And they -- they, of  
9 course, appreciate bumper level in -- when they  
10 develop their algorithm.

11 But I don't think we're telling DyMESH --  
12 we're not telling it, it's their algorithm that's  
13 -- that's including it in their -- in their  
14 algorithm.

15 Q The algorithm basically assigns one  
16 stiffness coefficient to the entire front or rear  
17 end or whatever it's analyzing; is that correct?

18 A Yes.

19 Q And you can't modify that or change that  
20 based upon the impact location in a particular  
21 simulator?

22 A Oh, well, you know, you could try to.  
23 You could try to. But then, again, you've got to  
24 be careful where -- you're probably taking the  
25 program outside the areas what it's been designed

1 to be used, and then you would have to just take  
2 responsibility for -- for controlling that.

3 In this case we're not, we're just using  
4 it exactly as how it was designed to be used.  
5 We're just using it as another calculation tool.

6 But if you get -- if you -- if you go  
7 very -- very far afield, then, yes, you would run  
8 into considerations that we didn't have to make.

9 Q It's my understanding that the program  
10 doesn't allow you to make those type of changes.  
11 You can't adjust the stiffness coefficient to a  
12 particular point on the vehicle, correct?

13 So you couldn't even run that type of  
14 simulation if you wanted to using the program?

15 A Look, we're not doing that and I'm not  
16 trying to get into that. But, you know, there are  
17 things you can do to these programs to influence  
18 beyond just the simplified observation that you're  
19 making here.

20 That's what I'm saying you shouldn't be  
21 doing. And if you do, then you're totally  
22 responsible for it.

23 But, you know, every -- every computer  
24 program, you know, can be affected if one wants to.

25 And I'm not -- and I'm not saying it can

1 be done or can't be done. I'm just saying we're  
2 not doing it and I don't -- I'm not aware of a way  
3 to do it, but doesn't mean that someone couldn't --  
4 couldn't do it.

5 Q Maybe I'll ask it another way: If the  
6 program doesn't know where the bumper or spring is  
7 located on either vehicle, how can it determine  
8 whether there was an override condition in the --

9 A Well, first, it shouldn't be using an  
10 override and nobody is using an override. And if  
11 anybody is, I think they're -- they're -- they're  
12 off the reservation and then they have to become  
13 responsible for -- for that work, in validating  
14 that work.

15 And there's probably ways to do that, but  
16 we don't -- we haven't done that.

17 So there -- it's not an override in the  
18 engineering dynamics calculation and we didn't  
19 intend it to be an override and it's not looking at  
20 override.

21 The accident one is an override and we're  
22 looking at that ourselves. We're not trying to  
23 take a program, you know, outside of what it's --  
24 of what we consider a fairly normal collision.

25 Q All right. So you didn't use them to



1 predict there would be no override in the  
2 simulation with the stock, you assumed that there  
3 would be no override based upon all the reasons we  
4 talked about that form your opinion that there  
5 wouldn't be an override in the F250 stock  
6 configuration? That's all I'm trying to get at.

7 A Yeah, you're also trying to insert some  
8 words in there that I can't agree with.

9 Fundamentally, the program's not designed  
10 to tell me if it was an override or underide.

11 It's designed to tell me the crush at  
12 whatever elevation I wanted to hit and I wouldn't  
13 use it if I knew there was an override because I  
14 don't -- I'm -- not normally use it, that means  
15 there -- there might be a situation where you  
16 couldn't use it to study something or observe  
17 something.

18 But in this case, it's Bryant Buchner  
19 that is letting the bumpers hit and it's letting  
20 DyMESH calculate it. And DyMESH and engineering  
21 dynamics intend it to be a normal collision.

22 I'm not taking an abnormal collision, I'm  
23 -- I'm not validating in any shape, form or fashion  
24 that it should be used for that.

25 Although, someone might manipulate

1 certain things to try to understand something for a  
2 crash and that might be okay, but that would be on  
3 their hands, not on mine.

4 Q Perfect. Can the -- can DyMESH predict  
5 the twisting and collapsing of -- of vehicle  
6 components?

7 A It doesn't -- it doesn't -- it's -- we're  
8 not telling it -- the answer would be you might  
9 could observe something that you could -- depending  
10 on the shape of the vehicle and what vehicle's in  
11 it, you could observe twisting or effectively  
12 twisting.

13 But no, there -- it doesn't have frame  
14 rails in it. It's not -- it's -- it's using --  
15 that would have to be something you would conclude  
16 based on the data. It's -- it's not going to tell  
17 you that something twisted, no.

18 Q Okay. Same thing, there's no mechanism  
19 for DyMESH to distort the shell of how it might  
20 pull on other parts of the vehicle? It's not  
21 capable of doing that either?

22 A No.

23 Q And -- and we obviously know that  
24 components could be pulled and twisted, they  
25 collapse and rotate during a crash, but that's not

1 part of the DyMESH --

2 A Well, it is but indirectly. It's -- it's  
3 -- it's not looking at those components being  
4 twisted as you're saying, but it is -- it is  
5 representing the crush of the vehicle, which is  
6 what we do. It's what we chose to do a long time  
7 ago was measure the crush and it's representing the  
8 crush.

9 Why the crush is happening and how it's  
10 happening involves twisting of metal and all that  
11 other stuff that's going on.

12 But we don't have to -- that's called  
13 finite element analysis when someone wants to model  
14 that and, you know, that -- that can be done, but  
15 that's a different methodology.

16 It doesn't invalidate the -- the  
17 Engineering Dynamic simulation programs, it's --  
18 it's actually, you know, been shown to be robust.

19 Q Prior to this case, have you used HVE in  
20 any other cases to simulate crush?

21 A I mean, I -- I don't remember all the  
22 times I've used HVE. We normally use it to look at  
23 crush, and if we're not concerned about crush, we  
24 might use PC-Crash. Or there's Brock Brothers has  
25 a calculation simulation program.

1           So it's just one of our many tools. I  
2       don't remember every time I've used it, but crush  
3       is normally one of the reasons why I use it because  
4       I'm -- I'm interested in what it says about crush,  
5       I'm interested in -- in -- in exploring crush.

6           Q       What other -- like PC-Crash and Brock  
7       Brothers, would you use those to determine crush?

8           A       No, I wouldn't. No. But -- I'm not  
9       saying you couldn't do it, but I'm -- I usually  
10      don't. I usually use PC-Crash as a dynamics and  
11      also a momentum-based analysis.

12                 That's what I prefer it for, but, you  
13      know, we can -- we can -- not saying we haven't  
14      used it.

15          Q       Sure. But HVE, I guess is what you're  
16      saying, is your primary simulation tool if you want  
17      to explore crush?

18          A       Without knowing anymore about it, if --  
19      if I just want to look at crush, I -- I tend to  
20      like to use HVE because it tends to give me  
21      information that I can use about crush.

22          Q       Assuming there's never been a situation  
23      where you -- your use of HVE to analyze crush was  
24      excluded, you know, by a court; is that correct?

25          A       That is correct. That is correct. There

1 aren't any situations like that.

2 Q And do you specifically recall situations  
3 where you used HVE to analyze crush in a trial  
4 where that evidence was actually admissible and  
5 used by them?

6 A As I sit here, I don't remember any.

7 Q Okay.

8 A Or as I stand here, excuse me.

9 Q Do you recall whether you -- that use of  
10 HVE in a -- as testimony in a case or as evidence  
11 in a case whether that's ever been challenged based  
12 upon Daubert or any other reason?

13 A I've been using H -- I've been using  
14 engineering dynamics programs for 30 years, over 30  
15 years. It's been part of our regular work. I  
16 don't ever remember it being a problem. I tend to  
17 remember problems more than I do things that aren't  
18 problems.

19 So my best answer is I don't -- when it  
20 was appropriate, we used it, or one of the other  
21 programs, and I haven't had an issue with it  
22 because I try not to use it unless I believe it's a  
23 reasonable representation for the study I'm trying  
24 to perform.

25 Q And what I'm getting at is, if you faced

1 a challenge like that before, you may have  
2 collected articles, peer-reviewed studies, or other  
3 material that would support your argument that  
4 using HVE to study crush is a reliable, scientific  
5 method for simulating, you know, crush in a  
6 hypothetical case.

7 It sounds like you haven't done that; is  
8 that correct?

9 A I really haven't done that because I've  
10 been using it for so long and I try to stay up --  
11 up-to-date on what's going on.

12 So, I mean, I -- I feel like I -- I  
13 haven't and I -- I don't remember having --  
14 remember having an issue with it.

15 Q All right.

16 A I'd be surprised if there's going to be  
17 an issue here, but I'll look at it if it comes up.

18 You know, it's -- it's just a  
19 straightforward use of a program that's available,  
20 been around for 30 years and it's well-respected in  
21 the industry.

22 I don't have any problem using it for  
23 this. I don't expect anybody else to, but if they  
24 do, I'll have to address it.

25 Q So as we sit here today, you haven't

1 selected any material that would support -- that  
2 indicates, that you can apply it back to this case,  
3 would be a reliable methodology for analyzing  
4 crush?

5 MS. CANNELLA: I'm sorry, can you repeat  
6 that? I couldn't hear it.

7 MR. HILL: Sure.

8 BY MR. HILL:

9 Q What I'm getting at is, as we sit here  
10 today you can't cite me to any peer-reviewed  
11 articles or any other sources that would support  
12 using HVE to analyze crush in a case like this one?

13 MS. CANNELLA: Object to the form of the  
14 question as vague. "Case like this one" is unclear  
15 what you mean.

16 BY MR. HILL:

17 Q I've tried to establish it multiple  
18 times. In a case where you're analyzing a complex  
19 crush situation in a hypothetical simulation  
20 involving vehicles that were not involved in the  
21 actual crash itself, if that helps to define it?

22 MS. CANNELLA: You're asking him if he  
23 has any papers that say you can use HVE to simulate  
24 a complex crash situation in vehicles not in the  
25 wreck?

1 MR. HILL: That's right. As he's done in  
2 this case. Meaning, what support would he have  
3 that that's a reliable scientific method to support  
4 his opinions in this case.

5 MS. CANNELLA: Okay, object to the form  
6 of the question.

7 A Okay. Well, first, you distorted. When  
8 you -- when you have the override you had, that can  
9 get a little complex.

10 We know exactly what's going to happen in  
11 that because we have the measurements of it. We  
12 don't have to guess at other things. It's just all  
13 right there.

14 But when you have the bumper-to-bumper  
15 stock vehicle, that's a normal crash. That's --  
16 that's as ho-hum as it gets. This is -- this is  
17 maybe the simplest crash I've had all year. A car  
18 stopped, a truck runs into at 52 miles an hour.

19 HVE, if it can't do that, then it can't  
20 do anything. I mean, that's -- that's -- that's  
21 what it's designed for.

22 And then if you go look in the  
23 literature, I mean, I've already pointed you over  
24 there to Northwestern. Northwestern teaches that  
25 it's -- that it's a good program to use in crash



1 reconstruction and it mentions, you know, to use  
2 it. It's one of the options that you have. So  
3 it's been referenced in that publication right  
4 there.

5 It's not -- this is not a complex crash  
6 that we're using it to analyze. It's about as  
7 simple as a crash can get.

8 One vehicle's sitting still and gets  
9 almost perfectly rear ended by another vehicle.  
10 And all the program's got to do is use -- we -- we  
11 tell it what the two vehicles are.

12 And then we tell it the strength of the  
13 two vehicles. In case of the one vehicle it knew  
14 the strength, and the other we told it the  
15 strength.

16 And then we -- we changed the relaxation  
17 or the coefficient of restitution until the data  
18 matches the -- the crash, the pulse that was  
19 recorded by the truck as far as the -- the  
20 beginning and ending speed.

21 That's -- that's like a 3-foot give me  
22 putt for this program. It's -- it's designed to do  
23 a whole lot more than that.

24 This is -- this is the fundamental  
25 purpose of the -- of the engineering dynamics was

1 to look at crush in collisions and calculate this  
2 stuff.

3 And it goes back 30 years. This -- what  
4 we're using, though, is just the latest iteration  
5 of it.

6 So I kind of -- and I got a calculator,  
7 too. You know, it works pretty good as well. It's  
8 just a calculation tool, that's all it is for this  
9 case.

10 BY MR. HILL:

11 Q You would agree that it's obviously --  
12 its results are dependent upon those variables you  
13 just mentioned?

14 A Within reason, yes. But the vagaries of  
15 the -- of the variables, you know, that are -- are  
16 very, very minor.

17 In other words, we use two calculation  
18 methodologies that are very far apart. We got  
19 2.1 feet -- less feet crush and 1 and 2.3 less feet  
20 crush in the other, that's a -- that's a really  
21 small window.

22 You know, if -- if it had been a large  
23 window, we would have -- and maybe looked going  
24 further, but we got the -- we got a very, very  
25 tight result using two independent methodologies

1 reasonably and --

2 Q I'm sorry, are you finished?

3 A And we're good with that.

4 Q A third methodology you could have  
5 employed would have been to actually develop a  
6 crash test involving an exemplar 2016 F250 and a  
7 2008 Ford Escape. Do you agree with that?

8 A I mean, that's possible, yes, sir.

9 Q Yeah. And obviously, that would be a  
10 real, real crash test that would not involve or be  
11 subject to input variables or other variables that  
12 the program and the calculations can't account?

13 A I can't agree with the last part of it.  
14 It's just a different way. You don't -- you don't  
15 blame an orange tree for not bearing apples. It's  
16 an orange tree. But yes, that is another thing  
17 that could be used.

18 And if someone wanted to do that now,  
19 there would still be variables that had to be  
20 accounted for every time everyone does a crash test  
21 that some guy says the humidity was different that  
22 day or something.

23 I'm not saying humidity matters, it's  
24 just, you know, there's always things that, you  
25 know, enter into that, too. It's -- it's not

1 perfect, but it's -- it's a tool and can be used.

2 Sure. No problem.

3 Q But you, in your opinion, rate an actual  
4 crash test higher than the simulations or  
5 calculations with regard to reliability in  
6 predicting what would happen in a hypothetical  
7 crash?

8 A Well, it depends on who did it and how  
9 they did it. I mean, very well -- you know, it  
10 could be, it could not be, we would have to see it.

11 You know, if -- in a perfect world, I  
12 would -- you know, I would like to -- I would  
13 choose the crash test if it were done as well as it  
14 should be done. I would tend to choose it, but,  
15 you know, we'd have to see it first.

16 Q Have you done actual crash testing of  
17 vehicles in your work in the past?

18 A Yes.

19 Q And in those cases when you did an actual  
20 crash test, did you also do like crush calculations  
21 like we did in this case or -- and/or any  
22 simulations or did you just rely upon the actual  
23 physical crash test?

24 A All different ways. But normally we do  
25 calculations so that we can set up the crash test,

1 you know, so. Or sometimes do a crash test just  
2 to -- just to evaluate one part of the crash.

3 So, you know, the simulation -- you know,  
4 a crash test is just to explain some thing or to  
5 investigate one thing and then the calculations are  
6 still where the answers come. So there's all  
7 different versions of it.

8 THE WITNESS: If you get to a good  
9 stopping point, and I can wait, I would like to  
10 take a break.

11 MR. HILL: All right. You can take a  
12 break whenever you like and hopefully we're getting  
13 towards the end.

14 THE WITNESS: Okay.

15 MR. HILL: Let's take a break.

16 THE WITNESS: Thank you very much.

17 VIDEO TECHNICIAN: The time is 3:10. We  
18 are off the record.

19 (Recess taken.)

20 VIDEO TECHNICIAN: The time is 3:32. We  
21 are back on the record.

22 MR. HILL: Thank you.

23 BY MR. HILL:

24 Q A couple of clarifying questions  
25 regarding the HVE simulation.

1           When you said that the initial -- and I  
2     think you said relaxation coefficient is maybe the  
3     term used by HVE?

4           A     Yeah, they have a relaxation link in  
5     there that -- that manipulates the coefficient of  
6     restitution. So that's how you get to it in this  
7     particular module.

8           Q     Right. So you testified that the initial  
9     relaxation values did not match up with the known  
10    impact and -- you know, entry and exit velocities.  
11    Is that not --

12           MS. CANNELLA: Entry and exit, what did  
13    you say?

14    BY MR. HILL:

15           Q     The velocities --

16           MS. CANNELLA: Velocity.

17    BY MR. HILL:

18           Q     -- or whatever the appropriate term is.

19           A     Right, it didn't -- you know, it -- it  
20    might have, but it didn't give the proper exit  
21    velocity that we -- or the delta-V that we were  
22    trying to use to represent this particular accident  
23    because it was accident-related data.

24                   And it was no surprise it didn't. We  
25    knew that it would be just a fluke if it did.

1 Q Sure. And the relaxation value for the  
2 Ford Escape that was used in the initial  
3 simulations, where did that come from?

4 A There's not a value for the Ford Escape.  
5 It's an inter-vehicle, vehicle to vehicle. So it  
6 will change depending on where you hit on the  
7 vehicles. You can have the exact same two  
8 vehicles. Hit -- hit a little bit differently,  
9 you'll get a different value.

10 So it just has a value when you turn the  
11 program on and it has a value that pops up. And  
12 then it's one of the things that we expect to have  
13 to modify. I don't remember what the -- what the  
14 value that pops up is. We call it the default  
15 value. But it's pretty close to what we had.

16 Q Is the default value based upon the  
17 individual vehicles involved in the simulation or  
18 was it just the standard default value?

19 A I -- my recollection is it's just a  
20 standard value that pops up. It's what the program  
21 starts with.

22 Q Okay.

23 A It's got to have something.

24 Q Yeah. So just that so that I understand  
25 it, and I apologize for -- I'm not having one --

1 one millionth of the expertise you have in this,  
2 but -- so you're not inputting into HVE relaxation  
3 or coefficient of stiffness or restitution?

4 A Restitution. Coefficient of restitution.

5 Q Yeah, you're not inputting that for each  
6 individual involved in the simulation? The  
7 simulation is generating a combined, for lack of a  
8 better word, coefficient of restitution for the  
9 accident and then using that in the simulation?

10 A That was almost but not quite. It needs  
11 a value to run the simulated crash.

12 So it has a value it'll typically start  
13 with, but if we know better or if we know an answer  
14 at the -- at the -- after the crash, we can --  
15 that's a tool we can use to get the proper input  
16 and the proper exit speeds.

17 And it's called tuning. We're just  
18 tuning it to match the data that we -- we believe  
19 was measured and was reasonably measured and -- and  
20 we're using it for our particular analysis.

21 Q Okay. Tuning is just to that one  
22 number --

23 A Yes.

24 Q -- that one coefficient of restitution  
25 that represents the accident as a whole?



1 A Yes.

2 Q And so, why did you have to go to Neptune  
3 Engineering to get the stiffness coefficient for  
4 the F250 -- go ahead.

5 A Yeah, because that's an input. It needs  
6 to know a reasonable strength of the vehicles. It  
7 -- some vehicles like the Escape, it already had a  
8 strength in, but the F250 it didn't. And when I  
9 say strength, I mean, coefficient -- crush  
10 coefficients.

11 So, therefore, we told it a reasonable  
12 value from Neptune Engineering to use.

13 Q Right. So that there is a component of  
14 the crush coefficient of each vehicle that HVE  
15 uses?

16 A Oh, absolutely. Yes, sir. Yes, sir.

17 Q That was what was confusing me.

18 MS. CANNELLA: I think we might --  
19 Mr. Hill, I'm sorry to interrupt you, but I think  
20 you guys might be getting your wires crossed on the  
21 terms, and I could be wrong, about the coefficient  
22 of restitution and the crush coefficient. They're  
23 different things, I think.

24 A If -- I might have heard the question  
25 wrong.

## Bryson, Santana and Joshua v. Rough Country, LLC

Page 178

1 MS. CANNELLA: Okay.

2 A So --

3 MS. CANNELLA: I don't know.

4 A Let's just -- let me make sure to listen  
5 to the question. I thank you. If we could try  
6 that last one again because I might have heard it  
7 wrong.

8 MR. HILL: Well, that's something we need  
9 to clear up.

10 Thank you, Tedra.

11 BY MR. HILL:

12 Q Is there a difference between crush  
13 stiffness coefficient and coefficient of  
14 restitution?

15 A There absolutely is.

16 Q Okay.

17 A So the crush stiffness coefficients have  
18 to do with the inherent strength of the vehicle.

19 And then the coefficient of restitution  
20 has to do with the rebound or somewhat -- or the --  
21 more or less a way -- the plasticity or elasticity  
22 of the vehicles as they combine and hit each other.

23 So one is -- one is kind of the  
24 springiness and the other is the strength.

25 Q So when we're talking about stiffness

1 coefficients, we're talking about strength?

2 A Yes.

3 Q Okay. And what version of HVE did you  
4 use, do you know?

5 A It's a -- it's a recent -- I think the  
6 purchase of this was last year, so it's a recent --  
7 if the output doesn't tell it to us on top, I don't  
8 know off the top of my head. Let me look and see.

9 Q 17.00.

10 A That looks right.

11 Q And that's from 2021?

12 A Yes, sir.

13 Q All right. And are there any new  
14 versions of it come out since 2021 that you're  
15 aware of?

16 A Not that I'm aware of.

17 Q Okay. And are you saying that there was  
18 no like database of stiffness coefficients for a  
19 2016 F250 contained within the HVE database?

20 A We didn't find one when we looked, no.

21 Q Okay. When you -- so you inputted the  
22 one you got from Neptune. And was that stiffness  
23 coefficient specific to any side of the F250?

24 A It -- it was a frontal, yes.

25 Q Okay. So you used the frontal one from

1 Neptune?

2 A (Nodding head.)

3 Q And then the stiffness coefficient used  
4 for the Escape was contained within the database  
5 already or within the program for the rear?

6 A Yes.

7 Q Okay. And then the program then  
8 generated its own coefficient of restitution to  
9 cover the entire accident?

10 A No. It had a value that was just in it  
11 by default.

12 Q Okay.

13 A Not -- not knowing about this crash at  
14 all.

15 Q Okay.

16 A And then we tuned it to match the known  
17 data in this crash.

18 Q Right. And so, the only thing you tuned  
19 was that the default coefficient of restitution you  
20 didn't change the stiffness coefficients for the  
21 two vehicles?

22 A Correct.

23 Q That's what I'm just trying to clear up.

24 A And it's good to get it cleared up.

25 Q Yeah. This is not the simplest stuff, so

1 I appreciate your helping me.

2 Now, does the -- does the center of  
3 gravity play any role? Is that something you have  
4 to input for each vehicle?

5 A The center of gravity is input and it  
6 plays a very minor role. As long as you're even  
7 reasonably close, it -- it doesn't have an effect.

8 Now, in this particular crash. In  
9 others, it can. Let's say you've got really an  
10 angled crash way off and it went in.

11 So in this case it is put in and then  
12 it's -- it's left where it is in the -- in the  
13 stock vehicles.

14 Q Okay. So -- so when you say it -- it is  
15 put in, is it put in by you, the user?

16 A Yes, based on those weights or the specs  
17 that you have that we looked at earlier, that's --  
18 the CG is determined by those weights and its  
19 location and that's what's in the program after we  
20 put it in.

21 Q Right. And that's -- that's kind of my  
22 question, because in the HVE simulation the Escape  
23 had a distribution of 60.6 percent to the front and  
24 39.4 percent to the rear.

25 Is that something that HVE automatically

1 input or is that something that you guys input?

2 A I'd have to go back and look on this  
3 particular run. You can put occupants in and then  
4 it'll make the adjustments which is fine.  
5 Sometimes we put it in ahead of time.

6 With those numbers you're telling me, it  
7 looks like we were accounting for occupants near --  
8 near the front wheels and the rear wheels.

9 So my memory isn't perfect on that, but  
10 you -- but if -- even if we left it at the original  
11 57/43, it would not change the answer in this  
12 particular case.

13 But it does look like -- the numbers  
14 being a little bit different, it looks like that --  
15 that either we or the program actually put the  
16 people in the front seat. So it -- you have a  
17 little more weight on the front.

18 Q And so that 3 percent extra you would  
19 attribute to the front seat occupants?

20 A Yes, because they're -- they're sitting  
21 closer to the front wheel so it adds a little bit  
22 of weight towards the front.

23 Q Right. And how did you determine the  
24 weight of the front seat occupants? Did you have  
25 medical records or something from them or what?

1           A       It's included in our -- in our materials  
2 here. Take a minute to find it, but we do have  
3 reference weights for all the people that were in  
4 the vehicle, either with their driver's license,  
5 where they often get it. Medical records is where  
6 we often get it. Or even in the depositions.

7                   But if we -- if you go look, there's a  
8 sheet in here that tallies and -- and has the  
9 references behind it. I think I have a tab called  
10 Weights. Yeah, I do.

11                   I have a weight sheet and behind the  
12 weight sheet is the weights of the vehicles, Hunter  
13 Elliott's weight. The Ford Escape, we have its  
14 weight. We have the weight of Santana Bryson and  
15 Joshua Bryson from their medical records. And of  
16 course, Cohen Bryson.

17                   So that's where we got them from.  
18 Medical records of all the people.

19           Q       Is this what I put on the screen, what  
20 you're referring to?

21           A       Yes, sir, that's the Result and behind it  
22 should be the medical records that we used.

23           Q       Right. And the weights for the F250, you  
24 have weights for the chainsaw, storage box and  
25 tools. How did you come up with those weights?

1           A       Well, the chainsaw and the storage box  
2       are just internet searches for those objects. And  
3       then the tools is an estimate by -- by me. You got  
4       a storage box, some tools in it and we needed a  
5       weight. I chose a hundred pounds based on all the  
6       tool boxes I have.

7           Q       Okay. And with regard to the Escape, the  
8       only thing that wasn't included would have been the  
9       spare tire and rim in the weight calculation?

10          A       No, it was in there, but it was  
11       probably -- I can't tell you it was at the back or  
12       in the middle seat or the front seat. It could  
13       have been moved around, but it -- it was in there.

14          Q       It was in there, you just don't know  
15       which wheel it would have registered on more than  
16       the -- the others?

17          A       Right. Yes, sir.

18          Q       I understand.

19                   The fact that the increase of that  
20       3 percent of weight distribution to the front in  
21       the Escape in your model, which by my calculations  
22       would have moved the center of gravity 4 inches  
23       forward, does that have any impact on your  
24       simulation in your opinion?

25          A       Not in this case, it will not. I mean,



1 it's -- it just won't have -- it just won't have an  
2 effect.

3 I mean, if you're talking about, you  
4 know, .01 something somewhere, which is not an  
5 effect in my mind, but the -- the final answer is  
6 going to be the -- the same answer.

7 Q So the exact location of the CG is not  
8 important to the HVE model in this case?

9 A A reasonable CG location is important,  
10 but moving it forward a few inches is not going to  
11 change anything in this case, no, sir.

12 Q All right. When you adjusted the -- the  
13 weights -- because I guess it pulls up a generic  
14 curb weight for the vehicle. Once you've input the  
15 vehicle, then you have to adjust it to add for the  
16 cargo and the people? Is that how it --

17 A Yes. Yes.

18 Q Okay. And so when you adjusted those  
19 weights, do you know whether you're in total mass  
20 mode or spring mass mode?

21 A I think it's in spring mass mode. But  
22 when you say mass mode, it's a spring mass, but  
23 where -- where -- it doesn't matter whether we  
24 change the total weight of the vehicle or we add  
25 the occupants. They are a part of the sprung mass,

1 so that's where the program is going to put it.

2 Q So it doesn't make any difference what  
3 mode you're in, it's going to put it in the sprung  
4 mass -- enter the sprung mass is what you're  
5 saying?

6 A The way we would view it, yes. I'm not  
7 saying somebody can't do it a different way, but,  
8 you know, we're -- we're looking at the -- at the  
9 sprung mass of the vehicle.

10 You know, it doesn't -- just for what  
11 it's worth, it's -- there are a lot of ways you can  
12 hit a putt and have it go in the hole. Whether it  
13 goes in the right side or left side, that's what  
14 we're looking at here.

15 We're -- there are things that definitely  
16 matter. The speeds definitely matter. The overall  
17 weights, you know, within reason, you know, matter.

18 But we're not trying to say it's an  
19 exact, precise, 100 percent answer. We're trying  
20 to look at two independent ways to get it. We get  
21 the same answer for both. It would have been less  
22 -- 2 feet less crush or more.

23 But we can play with it and the answer  
24 might be 2.2 or 2.1 or 2.3, but it's -- what we're  
25 -- just to be clear, these things are considered

1 when we run the program, but we don't -- it's not a  
2 critical factor.

3 Q Going back real quick to the stiffness  
4 coefficient. And you've already said you used the  
5 input -- the front stiffness coefficient for the  
6 F250 from Neptune Engineering. And the program  
7 already had the rear stiffness coefficient for the  
8 Escape.

9 Did the program consider the stiffness  
10 coefficients for any other side of any of the  
11 vehicle?

12 A No.

13 Q Okay. Is that something that the program  
14 allowed you to input as well?

15 A Okay, yes, the program has those values  
16 in it already. If it wants them, it can use them  
17 for the Escape. For the truck, we only gave it the  
18 frontals.

19 So if it wanted -- if it wanted something  
20 beside, it would have to do a -- it would have to  
21 do a ratio off of that or something. But it -- it  
22 only required us to give it the frontals.

23 Q So you're saying required meaning the  
24 occupant, the input, the other side, if you wanted  
25 to, but it wasn't required for the simulation to

1 run?

2 A That's my recollection, yes, sir.

3 Q But it's your understanding -- since we  
4 don't have the Neptune for the other side, it's  
5 your understanding that the program did consider  
6 the stiffness for the other three sides of the  
7 F250?

8 A Right.

9 Q Okay.

10 A It already had them loaded for the -- for  
11 the Escape. If it wanted them, they could use  
12 them, but I don't think it used them.

13 Q Are there sources for the stiffness  
14 coefficient of the F250 other than like Neptune  
15 Engineering?

16 I mean, isn't there NHTSA crash data and  
17 other sources that you could use to determine those  
18 -- those coefficients?

19 A In a sense, but Nep -- the government  
20 crash test, NHTSA, that's what Neptune uses. The  
21 government does not give you the stiffness values,  
22 you have to calculate them. We can calculate them.

23 We prefer to use Neptune for consistency.  
24 Everybody else in the industry can get to it. And  
25 in my mind it's generally accepted.

1 I've known Mr. Neptune and his business  
2 and -- for 30 years. Hence, I'm very comfortable  
3 with -- with his process. It's -- it's a  
4 standardized process.

5 There -- there are other clearinghouses  
6 you could probably go to at this point in time. I  
7 don't use any of the others. If I don't have -- if  
8 Mr. Neptune doesn't have what I need we recalculate  
9 it ourselves.

10 Q All right. Speaking of that, were you  
11 provided crash testing that was performed by Ford  
12 in this case?

13 A No.

14 Q Okay.

15 A Or if I did, I didn't see it.

16 Q So you're not relying upon any crash  
17 testing performed by Ford in your -- to give your  
18 opinions in this case?

19 A Well, ultimately, the -- the NHTSA test,  
20 sometimes I -- so if -- if we take that out, I've  
21 gotten no other crash tests that I'm looking at by  
22 Ford.

23 Q All right. And you didn't use the NHTSA  
24 crash testing of Ford to calculate the stiffness  
25 coefficient in this case, you -- you used the

1 Neptune Engineering number?

2 A Yes. For the F250, yes. And Neptune  
3 used the NHTSA data.

4 Q Just to cover everything with HVE so I  
5 don't get yelled at by my people. What environment  
6 was used for the collision?

7 A The HVE environment. There isn't -- in  
8 our case we're just using a flat level plane.

9 Q Right.

10 A So we're -- we're really interested in  
11 the crush phase which lasts, you know, a quarter  
12 second. After that, nothing. We're not interested  
13 in that because we're interested in the crush.

14 Q Understood. Was the coefficient of  
15 friction of the roadway involved in the simulation?

16 A It's probably in there, but it's -- you  
17 know, it's -- it's irrelevant.

18 Q It's going to be a default value or  
19 something that the program generates itself?

20 A Yes.

21 Q And you didn't measure the coefficient of  
22 the roadway and provide that as input in the  
23 simulation?

24 A No.

25 Q In the crush calculations that you did,

1 we talked about your coefficient of restitution  
2 that you used for those calculations, and I believe  
3 you testified it was your best estimate of an  
4 appropriate coefficient of restitution of 1.1?

5 A 0.1.

6 Q I'm sorry?

7 A 0.1.

8 Q Yeah, I'm sorry, 0.1.

9 Did you ever tune the HVE simulation  
10 using that same coefficient of restitution you can  
11 use in the crush analysis?

12 A I'm sure. We tried .1 and we didn't get  
13 the -- the -- the data that had been measured by  
14 the truck when we did that. So the .1's a pretty  
15 easy number put in.

16 So .1 or something essentially .1, but,  
17 you know, it didn't -- didn't match the input and  
18 output data.

19 Q Did you in performing your crush  
20 calculations ever use the 1.4, that approximate  
21 number of coefficient of restitution, that was used  
22 in the HVE simulation?

23 A No. HVE didn't use .14. Point 1 --  
24 well, let me check that. I might be wrong. Thank  
25 you for letting me clarify.

1 Q Yeah, I can't give you the exact number,  
2 I'm sorry.

3 A Yeah, we'll get it. I'm just kind of  
4 slow at flipping pages sometimes.

5 It used a .11. So HVE used a .11. In  
6 our calculations we used a 0.1 for the  
7 bumper-to-bumper hit which are going to be, of  
8 course, different from the accident because you had  
9 a bumper to tailgate hit.

10 So we -- we didn't use -- we used .1,  
11 which was my judgment, and HVE we had to use a .11  
12 to get it to match.

13 Q What did you just reference to find the  
14 .11 coefficient for the HVE?

15 A You asked for the HVE reports over the  
16 weekend and they were sent to you, so I'm looking  
17 at the inter-vehicle collision data page.  
18 Inter-vehicle collision data page.

19 Q And are you pointing out from .113 where  
20 it says "Restitution Coefficient" on the right  
21 side --

22 A Yes.

23 Q -- here?

24 All right. And this is just reflecting  
25 the final, I guess, say input that you guys put in



1 as the coefficient that you actually use the input  
2 and output speed values that you observed from the  
3 download?

4 A Yes, those are -- those are input and  
5 output speeds we were targeting, and the .11 is  
6 what hit the targets.

7 Q Gotcha.

8 And you don't know what that started out  
9 as from a default perspective?

10 A I don't remember, no, sir.

11 Q And you don't remember how many  
12 variations or tuning to that you guys had to do  
13 before you got the output that you expected?

14 A No. But not -- not that we expected,  
15 that we targeted. We -- we targeted specific  
16 values from the download.

17 Q Yeah, you say targeted. It's -- you're  
18 just trying to match the download?

19 A Yes.

20 Q You're not targeting something out of the  
21 blue?

22 A Correct. Thank you.

23 Q In your inspections of the vehicle by  
24 your team, did you guys ever remove the seat covers  
25 from the front seats of the Escape?

1 A Talking about the little fabric covers?

2 Yes, I think we did.

3 Q And what was the purpose of doing that?

4 A Oh, when we were scanning it, I think --  
5 I thought it would show up better or something like  
6 that. It didn't -- it wasn't really part of an  
7 inspection of the seat, it was just to, you know,  
8 work on appearance. Or photo.

9 Q Make the scan more accurate; is that --

10 A Yeah, like a color variation. I don't  
11 remember the color of them as I sit here, but I do  
12 remember looking at that. And maybe they were  
13 crumpled up in some way, but I do remember  
14 adjusting that.

15 I think we did -- I think I kind of  
16 removed them, but it's not a critical point. We  
17 can look at the photo some, but I think we did.

18 Q Did your team uncover any evidence that  
19 the driver's seat was impacted by anything?

20 A Oh, I wasn't looking for that.

21 Q Okay. And again, I think we've discussed  
22 that you don't intend to give any opinions as to  
23 whether the child impacted the front driver seat?

24 A That's beyond my area of expertise.

25 Q Now, I think you've acknowledged that

1     there can be intrusion into the occupant space in  
2     collisions that don't involve lifted vehicles; is  
3     that a fair statement?

4           A     I don't think so, but maybe we can  
5     clarify.

6           Q     Okay. So you -- when you say you don't  
7     think so, do you think it's impossible for there to  
8     be intrusion into the passenger occupant space in a  
9     collision that does not involve lifted vehicles?

10          A     I didn't fully follow the question. I --  
11     I think the answer, though, is, yes, a nonlifted  
12     vehicle can sometimes intrude the occupant space  
13     of -- of a -- the bullet vehicle that's nonlifted  
14     can sometimes include the occupant space of a  
15     target vehicle.

16          Q     That's all. Thank you for clarifying my  
17     question, yeah.

18          A     Thank you.

19          Q     Have you ever been involved in a case  
20     where there is a rear-end collision with nonlift --  
21     involving -- you know, neither vehicle was lifted  
22     where you observed intrusion into the occupant  
23     space?

24          A     The ones I think of are commercial motor  
25     vehicles. I mean, I've had them literally go all

1 the way over the top of a vehicle.

2 But as far as passenger cars, which we're  
3 talking about here, I don't know off the top of my  
4 head. I'm not agreeing or disagreeing, I just  
5 don't know.

6 It's -- you know, maybe at extreme speeds  
7 or something like that, but -- but I don't have any  
8 that I'm thinking about as I sit here.

9 Q And how would you define "extreme  
10 speeds"?

11 A We -- we've seen hundred mile per hour  
12 collisions. That's extreme. I wouldn't think of  
13 an exact number. I was just thinking of something  
14 that's just...

15 Q Why is there any threshold speed where  
16 you would expect there to be override and intrusion  
17 into the occupant space? Is there a way for you to  
18 put a number on that?

19 A No. It -- it depends on the accident.  
20 I'm not trying to judge cars as a -- you know, as a  
21 group, I'm looking -- I look at specific accidents.

22 But you ask me have I seen it, I don't  
23 remember any, but, you know, we do -- we do see a  
24 fair number of hundred-mile-per-hour vehicles out  
25 there. And, you know -- you know, that's where I

1 would start looking.

2 Q Right. So you acknowledge it's possible,  
3 you just can't remember a specific situation that  
4 -- that you're involved in as you sit here today?

5 A Yes, sir. And my apologies, I'm not here  
6 today to remember other accidents and I have a  
7 terrible memory of other accidents where I'm this  
8 focused on -- on a particular problem.

9 Q Sure. I guess on this same line, would  
10 you agree that there are accidents where the speed  
11 can be so severe that bumper height is not really  
12 relevant to whether a person can be injured in the  
13 accident?

14 MS. CANNELLA: Object to that question as  
15 vague and an incomplete hypothetical.

16 A Bumper height would still be important.  
17 Bumper height could in -- in many accidents could  
18 change the outcome.

19 So I -- as a -- as a general statement,  
20 I -- I can't agree or disagree, we'd have to look  
21 at specific events.

22 BY MR. HILL:

23 Q I understand.

24 So you would have to be presented with a  
25 specific scenario in order to give an answer to

1 that question?

2 A The way I heard it. I -- I don't want to  
3 give a generalization. I'd rather talk about  
4 specifics.

5 Q Give me one second here.

6 One of the items in the material you  
7 provided to us is Georgia Code Section 40-8-6.

8 Did you rely upon that code section in  
9 formulating any of your opinions in this case?

10 A I don't believe I did. It's a piece of  
11 background information.

12 And if the question is, was the vehicle  
13 lifted more than 2 inches, yes. I think that's the  
14 code you were referring to.

15 But it doesn't affect my opinion that if  
16 the vehicle hadn't been lifted, you know, the --  
17 the crush would have been less and all of that.

18 It's just a piece of background  
19 information that I'm aware of if -- if you want to  
20 compare it to the 2 inches, but I don't have a --  
21 it's not there for me to give an opinion off of.

22 Q And that's what I meant. You don't plan  
23 to give any opinions on whether Mr. Elliott  
24 violated that statute or not in this case?

25 A Only -- only if I'm asked was the vehicle

1     lifted more than 2 inches, I will say, yes, but I'm  
2     -- so I -- I have data that can help, but I'm not  
3     here to say whether he violated it or not.

4             But he -- if -- if -- if the -- if the  
5     hypothetical or if the ques- -- I can't use that  
6     word because I don't know what it means.

7             If the question is was it lifted more  
8     than 2 inches, the answer is yes. But if the  
9     standard is 2 inches, then he violated the  
10    standard.

11            But I'm not here to say what the standard  
12    for passenger cars are specifically. I'm just --  
13    it's in my file and I'm aware of it.

14            Q     Okay. You don't know how that statute's  
15    interpreted, what it's -- you know, what the  
16    baseline for that statute is, any of those that you  
17    haven't looked into that issue?

18            A     No, sir, it's a piece of data for me.

19            Q     Okay.

20            MR. HILL: All right. Let's take just  
21    another five-minute break and make sure I haven't  
22    missed anything.

23    BY MR. HILL:

24            Q     If I can ask you this question, it might  
25    help, but are there -- I know this is a difficult

1 question, but maybe you can help point me in the  
2 right direction.

3 But are there any topics or areas that  
4 you plan to give testimony on that we haven't  
5 covered today? What am I missing?

6 MS. CANNELLA: Object to the form of the  
7 question as vague, but you can answer.

8 A In my mind, you're not missing anything.  
9 We have the -- the -- you know, the support, which  
10 you've gone through in the drawings. And then the  
11 calculations that -- and we've talked about the  
12 heights and the intrusion.

13 So I believe -- I believe we have touched  
14 on all of the subjects. And you've been presented  
15 with the file materials.

16 So when I'm sitting here, I'm not  
17 thinking about anything that I'm waiting on you to  
18 ask me about. If I did, I would tell you.

19 BY MR. HILL:

20 Q Well, that's why I ask the question. I  
21 know it's a bad question and that was a valid  
22 objection, but I'll subscribe to have you point me  
23 to something that I'll miss that's important to  
24 your opinions.

25 MR. HILL: So let's take just a quick



1 10-minute break and make sure I've covered  
2 everything and then we can be done.

3 THE WITNESS: See you in five minutes.  
4 Thank you.

5 VIDEO TECHNICIAN: The time is 4:07.  
6 We're off the record.

7 (Recess taken.)

8 VIDEO TECHNICIAN: The time is 4:22. We  
9 are back on the record.

10 MR. HILL: Thanks.

11 BY MR. HILL:

12 Q Let me share my screen here. Just a few  
13 follow-up questions.

14 What I just put on the screen is 1362  
15 through 1374. This is what I think we've  
16 identified as the support to your report. I'm not  
17 sure whether we attached this as an exhibit to the  
18 report.

19 A You did. You labeled the support as an  
20 exhibit. I don't mind you doing it again, but I  
21 remember you saying --

22 THE COURT REPORTER: I think it was No.  
23 7, support.

24 MR. HILL: Okay. Thank you.

25 BY MR. HILL:

1 Q Now, if you open this page, you have some  
2 handwriting there that says: "Exemplar scan raised  
3 .04 inches to account for stock tire differences."

4 And I guess that's where you're  
5 indicating that your exemplar placarded car size  
6 were different than the placard tire size on the  
7 subject F250?

8 A Yes.

9 Q And -- and you have accounted for that  
10 .04 -- that .04 feet. Sorry, I think I said  
11 inches. The .04 feet is what that meant, is that  
12 the same height?

13 A Yes.

14 Q Okay. And you accounted for that in all  
15 of your simulations, that difference in that  
16 placarded tire size between a 2015 and a 2016 F250?

17 A Right. The simulations use the accident  
18 truck stock tire size, not the exemplar. The  
19 exemplar tire size wasn't -- wasn't used in a  
20 simulation.

21 Q Well, so you're saying that the  
22 simulation, the HVE simulation of a nonlifted  
23 version of the 2016 F250 used the tire size on --  
24 that was on the subject vehicle at the time of the  
25 crash?

1           A       No, that it came with. That it was  
2 originally provided with.

3           Q       Right. And that's what I mean, is  
4 that -- and it was .04 feet taller, for lack of a  
5 better word, than the tires that were on your  
6 subject -- on your exemplar vehicle?

7           A       Yes.

8           Q       Okay. We're on the same page.

9                   When you did the crush calculations,  
10 which I put up here as 3992 through 3993, help me  
11 understand, is -- there's a coefficient of  
12 restitution on 3993. And that would correlate with  
13 the overall coefficient of restitution for the  
14 accident we've been discussing in the context of  
15 the HVE simulation and other (inaudible), right?

16           MS. CANNELLA: Object to the form of the  
17 question as vague.

18           MR. HILL: I don't know how I could make  
19 it more specific.

20           MS. CANNELLA: Which -- which accident  
21 are we talking about here?

22           MR. HILL: We're talking about his  
23 simulation had a coefficient of restitution that  
24 was used to make each simulation.

25           BY MR. HILL:

1           Q       Those momentum calculations have a  
2       coefficient of restitution. And I'm trying to  
3       match all of those up. And does this coefficient  
4       of restitution on 3993 correlate with those other  
5       two coefficients of restitutions I've just  
6       mentioned?

7                   And when I say "correlate," I don't mean  
8       are they the exact value, I'm just saying are we  
9       talking about the same thing.

10          A       Actually, there's some differences there.  
11       This coefficient of restitution is for a reasonable  
12       value for the bumper-to-bumper collision as -- as I  
13       calculated it.

14          Q       Right.

15          A       There's a value that was derived through  
16       the use of the HVE program which is .11 or .118,  
17       eventually the same -- essentially the same thing,  
18       or .113, essentially the same as this. Both of  
19       those have to do with a bumper-to-bumper crash  
20       struck by the limited -- lifted.

21                   But the other was an attempt to derive a  
22       coefficient of restitution for the accident, but we  
23       really don't need it at all because it's -- you  
24       know, that accident is that accident.

25                   In other words, we -- we see the crush

1 and everything from it.

2 But -- so that's how they correlate.  
3 They're different accidents, but two of them, the  
4 .1 and the .11 plus are -- are for the  
5 bumper-to-bumper crash.

6 Q I understand. So -- and the momentum  
7 calculation, the restitution value there is for the  
8 actual crash?

9 A Didn't hear the question.

10 Q Okay. So I just put up the momentum  
11 sheet.

12 A Yes.

13 Q 4000. And I think that's what you were  
14 saying that that restitution value on this page  
15 correlates with the actual accident?

16 A It's a -- yes, it's an attempt to get the  
17 accident value for -- for the tailgate and all  
18 that.

19 Q And is that restitution value, .148, is  
20 that derived from these calculations on this page?

21 A Yes, it's -- in order to get the final  
22 answers at the bottom. The V1 -- the -- the --  
23 yeah, it's -- it's part of the calculation.

24 It's -- it's used to -- to make the data  
25 -- the 51 and the 17.92 and the 33.08 match the

1 accident.

2 Q Gotcha.

3 So you can put in different values for  
4 that restitution to make it output and match the  
5 output you just mentioned on the bottom?

6 A Yes.

7 Q Okay. For these -- the crush analysis  
8 using the mathematics on 3992, are the stiffness  
9 coefficients of each vehicle a part of this  
10 calculation?

11 A Yes.

12 Q Okay. And I -- I figured the answer was  
13 yes. Where on these pages exactly do they factor  
14 in?

15 A Well, the -- in the highlighted section  
16 in green at the top, the third -- I'm sorry, the  
17 second and third lines are the A and B values, the  
18 crush stiffness coefficients, for the F250 and the  
19 Escape respectively.

20 And then down throughout the calculation,  
21 those are referenced as capital A's and capital B's  
22 with a standard set of calculations, if that  
23 answers your question.

24 Q It does exactly. And the AA and AB  
25 stiffness coefficient, what side of the vehicle do

1 they represent?

2 A The AA is for the front of the F250. And  
3 the AB and BB are for the rear of the Ford Escape.

4 Q Right. So explain again real quick  
5 what's -- if the AA and BA for the F250 both relate  
6 to the front of the F250, why is there two there?

7 A It's the way strength is expressed.

8 We have an A coefficient which has to do  
9 with the amount of force it takes to start doing  
10 damage on the vehicle.

11 And the B coefficient helps assign energy  
12 or crush stiffness as the crush progresses  
13 throughout the vehicle.

14 So the -- so the -- the depth of crush is  
15 looking at the B value to calculate energy or force  
16 which ultimately calculates energy.

17 Q And how did you come up with these  
18 values, the AA and BA for the F250?

19 A Well, there's a report right after this  
20 from Neptune Engineering where they used a  
21 government crash test.

22 Yeah, that -- that's it. It's listed  
23 there.

24 And it gives you the date on the vehicle.  
25 It was going 35 miles an hour on the front. That's

1 in the very middle under the word Stiffness  
2 Coefficients.

3 It ran straight into a barrier. And then  
4 from the -- the damage they calculated it an A  
5 value and a B value right there.

6 Q And that's what's highlighted?

7 A Sir?

8 Q And that's what's highlighted on this  
9 page?

10 A I still couldn't understand you, I'm so  
11 sorry.

12 Q Don't worry. It was a dumb question  
13 anyways. Glad you couldn't hear it.

14 A Okay.

15 THE WITNESS: I think he did say,  
16 Ms. Court Reporter, what you thought he said.

17 BY MR. HILL:

18 Q The values on this page 3992 for AB and  
19 BB stiffness coefficients for the Escape, are those  
20 the ones that were generated by HVE when you input  
21 that was the vehicle or where did you derive those  
22 numbers?

23 A Those are from an SAE paper, Society of  
24 Automotive Engineers paper, that should be a few  
25 pages down from here.



1 Right there.

2 Q And that's 3998?

3 A Yes. And the title of the paper will be  
4 the next page, I hope.

5 Yes. It's -- yeah, so there's the SAE  
6 paper number in the upper right.

7 Q All right. And again, that's why you've  
8 highlighted that. Is that the only use you've had  
9 for this appendix is the highlighted numbers?

10 A Yes.

11 Q Okay. And do those numbers match up the  
12 stiffness coefficients that were used in the HVE  
13 simulation?

14 A They're not the same.

15 Q And again, the numbers used in the HVE  
16 simulation were generated by the software because  
17 it had a database for a 2008 Escape?

18 A Yes, when we used that model car it gave  
19 us AB values, so we used them as an alternative to  
20 these.

21 Q And that's what I was trying to get to,  
22 is that you did use the same stiffness coefficients  
23 for the F250 in both the crush analysis and in the  
24 HVE simulation, but you had different stiffness of  
25 coefficients for the Escape as we've just talked

1 about between the two analyses?

2 A Yes.

3 Q Okay. Does the HVE program allow you to  
4 input the values on this appendix 3998 as the  
5 stiffness coefficient instead of what's in the  
6 database?

7 A Sure.

8 Q And likewise, in you doing the crush  
9 analysis, you could have used the numbers generated  
10 by HVE instead of the numbers in this opinion?

11 A Yes.

12 Q Okay. Why did you not use the same  
13 numbers for the Escape in both analyses?

14 A We were trying to produce a range of  
15 values. We were doing -- trying to do a very  
16 straightforward standard calculation that we do  
17 using, you know, math formulas. And then we were  
18 trying to do a more sophisticated computer  
19 simulation.

20 And so we followed the -- you know, if we  
21 do it by hand, we don't pull values out of SAE when  
22 we -- I mean, out of engineering dynamics.

23 If we use the engineering dynamics, we'd  
24 like to use the values they have in there.

25 So it was a way to get a range. And the

1 range is really tight, 2.1 to 2.3 feet less crush.

2 And we say more than 2 feet in the  
3 report. So it was just -- we -- we could do more  
4 work to -- you know, and put in more numbers, but  
5 it's not going to change the answer we got.

6 Q So it was just a purposeful range of the  
7 parameters you used across the two analyses?

8 A Yes.

9 Q Okay. And is there in your opinion a way  
10 to determine the potential degree of error in  
11 either analysis? You know, lots of these analyses  
12 say it's within a .5 percent or 5 percent de --  
13 standard deviation in either direction.

14 Is there a way to establish a standard of  
15 deviation in either of these analyses?

16 A Sure. If one wanted to, one could --  
17 could do something along those lines. We -- we  
18 have effectively done it by using two independent  
19 methods. And we're looking at where those values  
20 overlap.

21 If we did the ranges, then, obviously,  
22 they would -- they would overlap between them. And  
23 so we feel comfortable in this methodology for --  
24 for establishing a range. Other people could have  
25 other ways they want to do it.

1           And -- and as -- as you suggested,  
2       someone could -- could go about it in a different  
3       way.

4           If we only had one of these methods, we'd  
5       probably be doing something like what you're  
6       talking about, but we had two independent methods  
7       and used basic, different fundamental data in the  
8       two methods, so -- and we got a range and we're --  
9       we're comfortable that the -- that that brackets  
10      the -- the reasonable range of answers.

11          Q       Is there any way for you to put a value  
12      on the potential for error in either -- either  
13      analysis?

14          A       Well, yes, but that would be a different  
15      technique that we didn't use. When you have  
16      multiple techniques, it's kind of like a VENN  
17      diagram, you're -- you're looking at the overlaps  
18      areas.

19                 So we use multi -- independent  
20      techniques. If you only had one technique, you  
21      know, then -- then you'd have to do -- or one  
22      calculation methodology, you'd have to use a  
23      different technique to do the ranges.

24                 But right now we have a range of 10  
25      percent that ranges from 2.1 to 2.3 in that -- in

1 the reduced crush.

2 So, you know, we -- we've got a range of  
3 10 percent between 2.1 and 2.3 and we're -- we're  
4 comfortable with that.

5 Q Understood. This is a page from the  
6 support document 1367. That is a graph of the  
7 simulated damage from the HVE simulation.

8 HVE did not generate this document, this  
9 is something you generated separate from that  
10 software, correct?

11 A The software gives the numbers, all we  
12 did is plot the numbers.

13 Q Right. So the numbers from the software  
14 would be the numbers in blue?

15 A Yes.

16 Q All right. And you just plotted that on  
17 this. And then noted 2.1 in the red you generated  
18 that -- that's the difference between the two, but  
19 the red line is from your physical examination of  
20 the accident vehicle?

21 A Yes.

22 Q Okay. Why are the values zero on the  
23 ends on the blue line?

24 A Because that's the way HVE does it.  
25 It's -- it's at the end, it says there's zero

1 crush. It -- it's just -- it's just the way they  
2 report it, that's all it is.

3 Because there's nothing to measure from  
4 that far out on the vehicle. You know, where the  
5 bumper -- if it's in front of the bumper, then it  
6 measures to the bumper. It's just the way it's  
7 reported.

8 But I'm not -- I'm not interested in  
9 their reporting necessarily or the -- I am in their  
10 answer. Their answer is the line -- at least  
11 that's my representation of their answer.

12 So it -- you know, one could argue there  
13 is crush over there and -- and I've got no problem  
14 because you can see it, but way out on the ends  
15 it's technically zero.

16 Q Now, when you created the blue line, you  
17 used your own judgment as to where that would  
18 actually -- how far that would actually crush in  
19 even though technically HVE is going to give you a  
20 value of zero?

21 A Well, no, it -- it also gives you a  
22 graphical result -- I mean, a -- a 3D result you  
23 can look at.

24 So you get a visualization of it. We  
25 just simplified it down to a -- an elevation that

1 corresponds, you know, to the bumper area of the  
2 vehicle.

3 Q And again, when you mentioned elevation,  
4 you're referring to that line up above 2.2 feet  
5 above ground?

6 A Yes.

7 Q And that's the bumper height?

8 A Well, yeah, it's within the bumper  
9 height, yes.

10 Q Yeah, to the center of the bumper height  
11 or what -- how -- how is that calculated?

12 A No, it's -- HVE has its own reporting  
13 levels. This is the level that corresponds to the  
14 elevation of the bumper. I don't think it's in the  
15 dead center of the bumper. It's not trying to do  
16 that. It's saying based on the geometry of the  
17 cars that we had, this is the crush at that level.

18 Q And does it pick that level or did you  
19 input that level?

20 A No, it picks it. It -- it -- based on  
21 the geometry of the car you give it, it reports a  
22 certain -- it -- it reports levels of crush.

23 And this is the one that's at the same  
24 level as that red line. Or reasonably it's at the  
25 level where the -- the -- the truck hit and where

1 the truck pushed in with its bumper.

2 So we're comparing where the truck did  
3 push the hatch to where the truck would have pushed  
4 the bumper to on the Escape.

5 Q Gotcha.

6 So the red line is going to be at a  
7 higher level than the blue line?

8 A Yes.

9 Q And how did you determine the height to  
10 use for the red line?

11 A I just look at the car. There's a huge  
12 bumper imprinted on the tailgate of the car.

13 Q And you just matched it up with the  
14 anticipated bumper height in the subject vehicle?

15 A No, you just measure the -- where the  
16 bumper hit. It's not anticipated. You can look at  
17 it and see the bumper. I mean, it's like -- I  
18 mean, you can see the shape of the bumper in  
19 the tail -- in the tailgate, so you just measure  
20 that.

21 Q All right. Do you have in here any --  
22 indicated anywhere what height that was, that --  
23 that you determined the bumper impacted the Escape  
24 in the actual accident?

25 A Okay. Well, it's at the height it's at



## Bryson, Santana and Joshua v. Rough Country, LLC

Page 217

1 on the car. Remember the car has changed shape  
2 quite a bit. It's been exploded is what I said.

3 So the height it's at now -- like the tow  
4 hooks are a couple of inches higher than the bottom  
5 of the -- of the lift gate or the -- yeah, I -- I  
6 measured that.

7 So the -- the photos show the height, but  
8 what's really important is the level of the height.

9 In other words, and we -- we know that  
10 the -- there's an imprint of the top of the bumper  
11 of the Escape on the bottom of the truck's bumper.

12 So we found the -- the tread on the --  
13 that 5-inch wide bumper on the Escape made an  
14 imprint on the bottom of the bumper of the truck.  
15 So we know the bumper of the truck went -- went  
16 over that.

17 So I can -- I can go -- we know the top  
18 of the bumper was 28 inches on the Escape. So, you  
19 know, we can give you all of those numbers, but --  
20 but the height of the bumper -- height of the  
21 damage on the car now is completely different than  
22 what it was before it got exploded because the --  
23 the car's been so badly damaged.

24 So the -- a lot of ways to answer it, but  
25 the answer really is, is the tailgate above the

1 bumper where the dent is it started out being more  
2 than 28 inches and now it's just at whatever height  
3 the poor crushed vehicle is sitting at with flat  
4 tires and everything else.

5 Q Understood. When HVE comes up with the  
6 simulation height, does it use the vehicle that's  
7 struck or does it use the striking vehicle?

8 A Well, it uses both of them. It knows the  
9 shapes of the vehicle. So it knows that the bumper  
10 sticks out. It knows, you know, what's going to  
11 hit first. And then it runs its calculations. And  
12 then when it gets done, it gives you an array of  
13 heights.

14 And then as an investigator on my part, I  
15 look at those and I choose which height I -- I want  
16 to discuss out of all of those.

17 But it also gives you a visualization of  
18 it, which you can see. And what I reported here  
19 was the height, the effective height at -- at a --  
20 in that 20- to 30-inch range where all the bumpers  
21 are.

22 Q Gotcha.

23 And that's what I was getting at is, it's  
24 my understanding that HVE is going to give you a  
25 range of heights. And you're saying you received

1 that, but you really are only interested in or  
2 commenting on the one height you selected and  
3 that's the 2.2 feet?

4 A Yeah, because that represents the maximum  
5 crush.

6 Q Right. So the other heights would have  
7 less crush?

8 A Well, technically, yes, because they  
9 don't stick out as far as the bumper.

10 Q Less crush from the end of the bumper,  
11 but would they have less crush from their starting  
12 point?

13 A Yes, because your -- the bumpers have a  
14 5-inch lead on everything else. And that 5-inch  
15 lead effectively in the calculation makes them  
16 stronger. They get -- they're already stronger,  
17 but they get -- by the measure of crushing. So  
18 they're going to -- they're going to -- we can go  
19 plot it, but nothing's going to stick out past the  
20 bumper from a practical standpoint.

21 Q Yeah, I understand that. I'm just trying  
22 to get -- let's say HVE gave you crush data for the  
23 hatch in the simulation, higher than the bumper,  
24 right? That data was provided by the simulation;  
25 is that correct?

1           A       I didn't understand your question. I --  
2       I was -- I didn't know what you were saying coming  
3       in. I heard the end but not the beginning.

4           Q       Sorry. Can you hear me now?

5           A       Yes, sir.

6           Q       All right. So even in the simulation  
7       where there's bumper-to-bumper contact, there's  
8       still going to be crush experienced by the hatch;  
9       is that fair?

10          A       Yes.

11          Q       And there's going to be a distance of  
12       that crush from the point where the hatch started  
13       to the point where it ends?

14          A       Yes.

15          Q       All right. And so I'm asking about that  
16       crush, that value, not from the bumpers -- the end  
17       of the bumper but from the end of where the hatch  
18       is?

19          A       Okay.

20          Q       Does HVE provide you that measurement of  
21       crush?

22          A       It -- it does. And we can go plot it,  
23       but it won't -- it'll be comparable to the blue  
24       line there.

25                   It won't be an effective difference that

1 we're -- from what we looked at in the data when we  
2 got it because you can visualize it.

3 So we can actually -- instead of  
4 discussing it, we can pull it up and look at it,  
5 but it's all going to be very well represented --  
6 yeah, there's one.

7 Q Yeah.

8 A There should be an angle view of that as  
9 well.

10 Yeah, there you go.

11 So, you know, basically made the back of  
12 a vehicle relatively flat.

13 The blue line, I think, is drawn for on  
14 the bumper, but it also represents a little bit  
15 above the bumper as well.

16 As you get up into the roof, the roof  
17 isn't crushed at all.

18 Q This picture on 1368, is that generated  
19 solely by HVE?

20 A Solely by HVE.

21 Q All right. Same for 1369?

22 A Yes.

23 Q And then what's shown on 1370 and 1371,  
24 that was generated by you using the overlays?

25 A Yes, that's -- that's our 3-D models

1 stuck together.

2 Q And that's --

3 A And that -- yeah, and the red car there  
4 is an uncrushed vehicle. That's a -- the exemplar.

5 And then the next slide, I think you  
6 flipped to, with the blue vehicle is the -- that's  
7 the uncrushed. Yeah, the blue vehicle or what  
8 looks almost black here is the actual accident  
9 vehicle.

10 Q And that's 1372 you're referring to?

11 A Thank you.

12 Q And this is just your overlay of an  
13 undamaged Escape illustrating the, I guess, level  
14 of crush in the subject accident?

15 A Yes. Relative to an undamaged Escape.

16 Q All right. And then 1373, what does it  
17 represent?

18 A That's just another view of the same  
19 thing you were looking at. It's the -- it's how  
20 far the truck penetrated relative to an undamaged  
21 Escape.

22 Q What's the difference between 1372 and  
23 1374?

24 A Well, 1372 is the damaged Escape. 1374  
25 is the damaged Escape and the exemplar undamaged

1 Escape occupying the exact same space.

2 And so you can -- you can see the  
3 undamaged one in the red. And then, of course, you  
4 can see the deformed metal of -- of blue or what  
5 appears black here of the damaged one.

6 So you can see how much of the red Escape  
7 had to be moved forward to produce the -- the black  
8 or blue Escape.

9 Q Gotcha.

10 All right. I'm just checking to make  
11 sure I marked everything and then I'll be finished.

12 A Okay. I'm going to stand up again,  
13 please.

14 MR. HILL: And we can go off the record  
15 for a second.

16 VIDEO TECHNICIAN: The time is 4:51. We  
17 are off the record.

18 (Off the record.)

19 VIDEO TECHNICIAN: The time is 4:55.  
20 We're back on the record.

21 MR. HILL: Thank you, Mr. Buchner, I  
22 appreciate your time today. That's all that I  
23 have.

24 THE WITNESS: I have a correction to a  
25 mistake I made.

1 MR. HILL: Okay, always welcome those.

2 A Okay. I did math. You asked me had I  
3 done the calculation? I said, "No, I did it in my  
4 head." And -- and I saw the amount of body lift  
5 and I made a mistake.

6 We have the total lift to be 6.1 to  
7 6.6 inches. And then the tires make up about half  
8 an inch of that. So, therefore you're left with a  
9 body lift of 6 to 6 1/2 inches.

10 So .04 feet times 12 is half an inch. So  
11 effectively we still have a 6-inch -- we still have  
12 a 6-inch lift, body lift within a range.

13 So I had done the math poorly earlier  
14 when I said 5 1/2. I had -- I had mis --  
15 misexpressed it.

16 BY MR. HILL:

17 Q And the difference is the increase in  
18 height from the non-OEM tires that were on the  
19 subject F250?

20 A Yes, that is only .04 feet.

21 Q Right.

22 A It's only .04 feet. And -- and so I -- I  
23 did the math wrong. I used it as a .4. So that  
24 was my mistake.

25 Q And there was also a .04 difference in



1 feet between the 2015 tires on the -- your exemplar  
2 model and the 2016 placard size?

3 A Yeah, that's what we're taking out there.

4 We're saying the total lift on the  
5 vehicle was -- I think we say 6.1 -- in the report  
6 we say 6.1 inches. The effective total body lift  
7 was 6.1 inches.

8 In my calculations we have it up to  
9 .55 feet, which is 6.6 inches. And then we're  
10 going to end up subtracting .04 feet off of that  
11 which is half an inch -- let me do that again.

12 12 times -- oh, no, it's not -- yeah,  
13 never do calculations in a deposition. Yeah.

14 So let me -- can you go to the base data  
15 summary?

16 Q The -- the what?

17 A It's this sheet here. It's very early in  
18 the engineering analysis.

19 Q All right. Let me see if I can find it.

20 A Okay.

21 Q There you go.

22 A Okay. So the second and third boxes show  
23 that the difference in height between the accident  
24 and the exemplar vehicle was .55 feet.

25 And then if we come down just a little

1 bit, we want to take the tires out of that, the  
2 .35 inches, which is in the fourth box down, is  
3 only .03 feet.

4 So if we do .55 minus .03 we get .52.  
5 And that's .52 feet, multiply that by 12, we get 6  
6 1/4 inches.

7 So effectively the total lift was closer  
8 to 6 1/2 and the body lift was a little over 6.  
9 Just to clarify.

10 And so 6.1 that I put in the report was  
11 the body lift. It was intended to be the body  
12 lift. So the body lift really is a little over 6  
13 inches. When you add the tires in you're closer to  
14 the 6 1/2 inches.

15 So I -- I was mistaken when I said 5 1/2  
16 earlier. I missed my decimal points. And I -- I  
17 thought the .35 or the .7 that's right there was in  
18 feet. It's not. It's -- I thought it was at  
19 .07 feet, it's not, it's .07 inches, and so I made  
20 a mistake. So body lift is more than 6 inches.

21 Q The third box that has the bracket  
22 height, how did you come up with those numbers,  
23 those values?

24 A Well, I laid on the ground under both  
25 vehicles and measured the height off the ground.

1                   And then, you know, we, of course, check  
2                   the scans as best we can as well and, you know --  
3                   so we have two competing methods. And then --

4                   Q       When you measured --

5                   A       But if you look in the -- in my  
6                   engineering analysis, both the photos I used are in  
7                   there.

8                   Q       All right.

9                   A       With tape measures on them.

10                  Q       When you measured the bracket height on  
11                  the exemplar and you came up with a number  
12                  1.05 feet, do you see that in the third box?

13                  A       Yes.

14                  Q       Did that take into account the  
15                  approximately half-inch lower the exemplar was from  
16                  a stock 2016 F250?

17                  A       No, that's going to be taken up in the  
18                  tire size down below it.

19                  Q       All right. So that difference does not  
20                  reflect the true difference between a stock and the  
21                  accident?

22                  A       That's my recollection, yes.

23                  Q       Okay. So the real difference is when you  
24                  have the tire size, that's taking into account the  
25                  fact that your exemplar was half an inch low and

1 that's where you get a difference of .35 inches; is  
2 that -- am I reading that right?

3 A Yeah, it's really point -- it's not quite  
4 half inch, more like a third of an inch. But yeah,  
5 .35 inches is the difference in your tires.

6 Q Do you have an explanation for why a  
7 4 1/2-inch lift would raise the height of the  
8 vehicle 6.1 or -- or that range? What is the  
9 explanation there?

10 A Yes, I do have an explanation. What  
11 they're doing -- I believe it's -- they're leveling  
12 it which requires lifting the front and then  
13 they're lifting.

14 So it's a combination of the leveling  
15 effect and the lift effect. So at the back we're  
16 lifting it more like 4 1/2 inches but at the front  
17 we're lifting it more like 6, 6 1/2 inches or let's  
18 just say 6 or a little more.

19 Q And that's because from your manufacturer  
20 there's a -- I don't know if the proper word, if  
21 it's camber or slant, where the rear of the vehicle  
22 is slightly higher than the front?

23 A Yes. And -- yes, and that's my belief.  
24 That's how the math works. That's what I look at.  
25 That's what I think when I see it.

1 But practically the only thing I'm -- I'm  
2 concerned about is how much did the front go up,  
3 and the answer is a little over 6 inches.

4 Q Did you measure how far the back went up?

5 A Not specifically, but I remember  
6 measuring the spacers that were put in and it --  
7 thinking, well, that's effectively 4 1/2 inches at  
8 the back. So it's very close to 4 1/2 inches.

9 Q So you -- you suspect that the -- the  
10 back was an inch and a half higher than the front  
11 from its original configuration approximate?

12 A I don't suspect one way or the other,  
13 I'm -- I'm --

14 Q Okay.

15 A That's a good -- that's a good theory  
16 from the data I've given you and I don't -- I'm not  
17 going to argue about it.

18 I'm just -- from a practical standpoint I  
19 just want to know how much the front went up, and,  
20 you know, it's 6 inches or a little more.

21 Q And this, while we have it up, 3970, the  
22 last column just so that I make sure because that's  
23 what I was asking you about before, the crush  
24 analysis Escape stiffness coefficients came from  
25 SAE and then the value you see under Simulation

1 were generated without your input by HVE?

2 A Yes.

3 Q Okay. Do you know how HVE comes to the  
4 determination of the stiffness coefficient for the  
5 Escape?

6 A I'm pretty sure Terry Day that's been  
7 part of HVE and one of the authors of the whole  
8 program, I believe he determined that years ago.

9 I think if you go back through the  
10 historical documents, he -- he has papers that he  
11 was offering about what the crush stiffness of  
12 various vehicles are. And I believe that's from  
13 one of his earlier papers.

14 Q Gotcha.

15 Do you know whether he based that on  
16 actual crash testing or how he calculated that?

17 A He -- based on his vast experience. I  
18 mean, he's -- that's what he's doing with the  
19 program is comparing it to crash test and staging  
20 accidents and everything else.

21 So you're asking -- it's in the program,  
22 it's what they're -- what you get when you pay for  
23 the program. And it's -- it's a reasonable  
24 representation.

25 You asked me my judgment a little bit on

1 where it came from and I -- I believe that if you  
2 go look through everything, you'll find that Terry  
3 Day was part of establishing those values because I  
4 think those values show up in some of his earlier  
5 papers.

6 But just to point out they're  
7 conservative for this crash. In other words,  
8 they're going to show -- they're -- they're --  
9 they're the lowest values that we could find and so  
10 they're going to overreport crush.

11 Whereas, the more -- what I believe are  
12 probably more current values are going to  
13 underreport crush and that's where 2.1 to 2.3 is  
14 coming from.

15 Q The same would be true for the F250, if  
16 the simulation stiffness coefficients were lower,  
17 how would that impact the simulation?

18 A Well, it would shift crush to the F250.  
19 So the F250 would absorb it so the Escape wouldn't  
20 have to absorb it.

21 Q And it would effectively produce crush  
22 into the Escape as well?

23 A Yes, and vice versa, of course.

24 Q All right. And it's -- and it's your  
25 belief that the simulation program does not contain

1 values within the program for the F250?

2 A We didn't find them, no, sir.

3 Q If you had found them, would you have  
4 used them in the F -- in the HVE simulation?

5 A Yes.

6 Q Give me one second.

7 So, again, on this if the simulation  
8 thickness coefficient for the F250, if the A value  
9 went up, that would result in it being stiffer.  
10 And you're saying it would cause more crush on the  
11 Escape than what the 520 value would represent; is  
12 that fair?

13 A Possibly, depending on how much it went  
14 up, yes. That would be the trend.

15 Q And would the same be true for B?

16 A Yes, that would be the trend.

17 Q How much would the constant A have to go  
18 up for it to increase the crush level in the  
19 simulation, do you know?

20 A It's -- no. You know the trend, of  
21 course, but it's -- it's not likely to be highly  
22 sensitive to it, but it will definitely trend up.

23 But I didn't -- I don't have a  
24 correlation I can tell you off the top of my head.

25 Q And if you used higher values in your



1 crush analysis, is the same true, same trend?

2 A Yes.

3 MR. HILL: All right. Thank you for  
4 clarifying that.

5 I don't think I have any other questions.

6 MS. CANNELLA: All right. So we're done.  
7 I don't have any.

8 THE WITNESS: I'll read.

9 VIDEO TECHNICIAN: This concludes the  
10 videotape deposition. The time is 5:11 p.m. We  
11 are off the record.

12 (Deposition concluded at 5:11 p.m.)

13 (Signature requested.)

14

15 \* \* \* \* \*

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## Bryson, Santana and Joshua v. Rough Country, LLC

Page 234

1 The following reporter and firm  
disclosures were presented by me at this proceeding  
2 for review by counsel:

## REPORTER DISCLOSURES

3 The following representations and  
disclosures are made in compliance with Georgia  
4 Law, more specifically:

Article 10 (B) of the Rules and  
5 Regulations of the Board of Court Reporting  
(disclosure forms).

6 OCGA Sections 9-11-28 (c)  
(disqualification of reporter for financial  
7 interest).

OCGA Sections 15-14-37 (a) and (b)  
8 (prohibitions against contracts except on a  
case-by-case basis).

9 - I am a certified court reporter in the state of  
Georgia.

10 - I am a subcontractor for Veritext.

11 - I have been assigned to make a complete and  
accurate record of these proceedings.

12 - I have no relationship of interest in the matter  
on which I am about to report which would  
disqualify me from making a verbatim record or  
13 maintaining my obligation of impartiality in  
compliance with the Code of Professional Ethics.

14 - I have no direct contract with any party in this  
action, and my compensation is determined solely by  
15 the terms of my subcontractor agreement.

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16 - Veritext was contacted to provide reporting  
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17 matter.

18 - There is no agreement in place that is prohibited  
by OCGA 15-14-37(a) and (b). Any case-specific  
discounts are automatically applied to all parties,  
19 at such time as any party receives a discount.

20 - Transcripts: The transcript of this proceeding  
as produced will be a true, correct, and complete  
record of the colloquies, questions, and answers as  
21 submitted by the certified court reporter.

22 - Exhibits: No changes will be made to the  
exhibits as submitted by the reporter, attorneys,  
or witnesses.

23 - Password-Protected Access: Transcripts and  
exhibits relating to this proceeding will be  
24 uploaded to a password-protected repository, to  
which all ordering parties will have access.  
25

Bryson, Santana and Joshua v. Rough Country, LLC

Page 235

## C E R T I F I C A T E

Deposition of: G. BRYANT BUCHNER, PE

Date of Deposition: JANUARY 23, 2024

STATE OF GEORGIA:

I hereby certify that the foregoing transcript was stenographically recorded by me via Zoom as stated in the caption. The deponent was duly sworn to tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth. And the colloquies, statements, questions and answers thereto were reduced to typewriting under my direction and supervision and the deposition is a true and correct record, to the best of my ability, of the testimony/evidence given by the deponent.

I further certify that I am not a relative or employee or attorney or counsel to any of the parties in the case, nor am I a relative or employee of such attorney or counsel, nor am I financially interested in the action.

This, the 1st day of February 2024.



Judith L. Leitz Moran, CCR-B-2312  
Registered Professional Reporter

## 1 FIRM CERTIFICATE AND DISCLOSURE

2  
3 Veritext represents that the foregoing transcript  
4 as produced by our Production Coordinators, Georgia  
5 Certified Notaries, is a true, correct and complete  
6 transcript of the colloquies, questions and answers  
7 as submitted by the certified court reporter in  
8 this case. Veritext further represents that the  
9 attached exhibits, if any, are a true, correct and  
10 complete copy as submitted by the certified  
11 reporter, attorneys or witness in this case; and  
12 that the exhibits were handled and produced  
13 exclusively through our Production Coordinators,  
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15 production certificates related to this proceeding  
16 are available upon request to

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18 Veritext is not taking this deposition under any  
19 relationship that is prohibited by OCGA 15-14-37  
20 (a) and (b). Case-specific discounts are  
21 automatically applied to all parties, at such time  
22 as any party receives a discount. Ancillary  
23 services such as calendar and financial reports are  
24 available to all parties upon request.  
25

Bryson, Santana and Joshua v. Rough Country, LLC

Page 237

1 TO: Tedra L. Cannella, Esq. tedra@cannellasnyder.com  
2 Re: Signature of Deponent G. Bryant Buchner, PE  
3 Date Errata due back at our offices: 30 days  
4

5 Greetings:

6 The Deponent has reserved the right to read and  
7 sign. Please have the deponent review the attached  
8 PDF transcript, noting any changes or corrections  
9 on the attached PDF Errata. The deponent may fill  
10 out the Errata electronically or print and fill out  
11 manually.

12 Once the Errata is signed by the Deponent and  
13 notarized, please mail it to the offices of  
14 Veritext (below).

15 When the signed Errata is returned to us, we will  
16 seal and forward to the taking attorney to file  
17 with the original transcript. We will also send  
18 copies of the Errata to all ordering parties.  
19 If the signed Errata is not returned within the  
20 time above, the original transcript may be filed  
21 with the court without the signature of the  
22 Deponent.

23 Please send completed Errata to:  
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25 20 Mansell Court E, Suite 300  
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1 ERRATA FOR ASSIGNMENT NO. 6395968

2 I, the undersigned, do hereby certify that I have  
3 read the transcript of my testimony, and that

4  
5 \_\_\_\_\_ There are no changes noted.

6 \_\_\_\_\_ The following changes are noted:

7  
8 Pursuant to Rule 30(7)(e) of the Federal Rules of  
9 Civil Procedure and/or OCGA 9-11-30(e), any changes  
10 in form or substance which you desire to make to  
11 your deposition testimony shall be entered upon the  
12 deposition with a statement of the reasons given  
13 for making them. To assist you in making any such  
14 corrections, please use the form below. If  
15 supplemental or additional pages are necessary,  
16 please finish same and attach them to this errata  
17 sheet.

18  
19 Page/Line/ Change / Reason

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25 \_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_

## Bryson, Santana and Joshua v. Rough Country, LLC

Page 239

1 Page/Line/ Change / Reason

2 \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_

3 \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_

4 \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_

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17

18 \_\_\_\_\_

19 G. BRYANT BUCHNER, PE

20

21 Sworn to and subscribed before me

this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_.

22

23 \_\_\_\_\_

24 Notary Public.

25 My Commission Expires \_\_\_\_\_.

Bryson, Santana and Joshua v. Rough Country, LLC

[&amp; - 1st]

Page 1

<b>&amp;</b>	170:19 191:12	<b>11</b> 3:16 137:20	<b>1373</b> 222:16
<b>&amp;</b> 2:14	191:16,16,23	148:16 149:11	<b>1374</b> 3:22
<b>0</b>	192:10 205:4	150:22 153:2	74:23 75:12
<b>0</b> 111:22	<b>1's</b> 191:14	192:5,5,11,14	201:15 222:23
<b>0.1</b> 192:6	<b>1,800</b> 50:18	193:5 204:16	222:24
<b>0.1.</b> 119:9	<b>1.05</b> 227:12	205:4	<b>14</b> 64:15 90:13
191:5,7,8	<b>1.1</b> 191:4	<b>11/20/22</b> 12:21	191:23
<b>0.148</b> 112:18	<b>1.4</b> 191:20	<b>1125.jpg.</b> 149:6	<b>14.75</b> 64:4,16
<b>0.4</b> 129:20	<b>1/2</b> 57:22 58:1	<b>113</b> 192:19	65:7
138:9	58:4,11 59:3	204:18	<b>148</b> 114:4
<b>0.7</b> 138:10	59:13,22 138:6	<b>117</b> 3:23	119:21,24
139:22,25	138:7,12,13,20	<b>118</b> 204:16	205:19
<b>001350</b> 3:20	138:22,23	<b>11:13</b> 1:18 4:2	<b>14th</b> 69:6
<b>001361</b> 3:20	148:18 224:9	4:5	<b>15-14-37</b> 234:7
<b>001362</b> 3:22	224:14 226:8	<b>11:21</b> 11:24	234:18 236:11
<b>003990</b> 3:25	226:14,15	<b>11:24</b> 12:2	<b>150</b> 52:3,14
<b>003995</b> 129:19	228:7,16,17	<b>12</b> 3:13 224:10	<b>16th</b> 51:13
<b>003999</b> 3:25	229:7,8	225:12 226:5	<b>17</b> 3:15
<b>01</b> 185:4	<b>1/4</b> 226:6	<b>1278</b> 235:23	<b>17.00.</b> 179:9
<b>017</b> 1:8	<b>10</b> 3:8 15:2	<b>12:32</b> 70:13	<b>17.92</b> 90:12
<b>03</b> 226:3,4	79:19,20 80:25	<b>12:48</b> 70:16	113:23 155:24
<b>04</b> 97:1,2 98:1	80:25 86:15	<b>12th</b> 73:20 74:1	205:25
98:11 202:3,10	116:9 117:15	<b>1350</b> 73:23	<b>17.93.</b> 155:25
202:10,11	137:21 148:9	<b>1359</b> 137:21	<b>17th</b> 53:24
203:4 224:10	201:1 212:24	<b>1361</b> 73:24	<b>18</b> 45:20,21,22
224:20,22,25	213:3 234:4	<b>1362</b> 74:23	140:11
225:10	<b>10.4</b> 151:11	75:12 201:14	<b>19.3</b> 107:5
<b>07</b> 226:19,19	<b>10/12</b> 71:19	<b>1367</b> 213:6	<b>1:25</b> 99:24
<b>08</b> 127:14	<b>10/12/2023</b>	<b>1368</b> 221:18	<b>1:28</b> 100:3
	3:19	<b>1369</b> 221:21	<b>1:49</b> 116:2
<b>1</b>	<b>10/13</b> 71:7,18	<b>1370</b> 221:23	<b>1:58</b> 116:5
<b>1</b> 3:8 10:16,19	<b>100</b> 52:18	<b>1371</b> 221:23	<b>1st</b> 235:21
19:4 76:3	186:19	<b>1372</b> 222:10,22	
119:16 120:10	<b>105</b> 52:18	222:24	
120:15 130:21			



[2 - 4]

Page 2

<b>2</b>	225:1	<b>23.6.</b> 151:13	<b>30th</b> 64:2
<b>2</b> 3:13 12:14,19	<b>2016</b> 96:1,8,18	<b>23.8</b> 151:14	<b>315</b> 2:7
76:16 79:19,20	97:20 98:8,24	<b>2312</b> 1:23	<b>33.08</b> 205:25
148:19 186:22	99:15 108:19	235:24	<b>3344</b> 2:15
198:13,20	116:24 171:6	<b>23rd</b> 4:5	<b>34</b> 99:8,9
199:1,8,9	179:19 202:16	<b>2400</b> 2:16	<b>343-9696</b>
211:2	202:23 225:2	<b>250</b> 40:24	237:19
<b>2.1</b> 170:19	227:16	141:22	<b>35</b> 207:25
186:24 211:1	<b>2020</b> 3:15	<b>26196</b> 51:8	226:2,17 228:1
212:25 213:3	43:13	<b>26627</b> 57:16	228:5
213:17 231:13	<b>2021</b> 51:13	<b>27114</b> 60:4	<b>39</b> 117:11
<b>2.2</b> 186:24	52:1 53:22	<b>27394</b> 61:24	<b>39.4</b> 181:24
215:4 219:3	76:19 179:11	<b>28</b> 217:18	<b>3970</b> 229:21
<b>2.3</b> 118:1	179:14	218:2	<b>3990</b> 117:10
170:19 186:24	<b>2022</b> 12:24	<b>29108</b> 64:2	<b>3991</b> 118:19
211:1 212:25	55:19,25 60:5	<b>29th</b> 60:5	<b>3992</b> 119:4
213:3 231:13	61:8 76:22	<b>2:22</b> 1:8	203:10 206:8
<b>2.5</b> 55:10	80:5 82:3	<b>3</b>	208:18
<b>2/22</b> 56:2	84:10	<b>3</b> 3:14 43:8,10	<b>3993</b> 119:5,9
<b>20</b> 13:24 14:12	<b>2023</b> 3:16 64:2	50:1 77:20	203:10,12
80:22 81:1	64:6 68:10,12	80:2 169:21	204:4
96:9,25 218:20	69:6 70:6	182:18 184:20	<b>3994</b> 126:22
237:18 239:21	73:20 74:1	221:25	<b>3997</b> 130:1
<b>2008</b> 77:2	76:19	<b>3,410</b> 80:4	<b>3998</b> 209:2
127:19 131:1	<b>2024</b> 1:17 4:2,5	<b>3.35</b> 129:18,19	210:4
171:7 209:17	67:18 235:2,21	<b>30</b> 13:22	<b>3:10</b> 173:17
<b>2010</b> 62:17	<b>21st</b> 52:1,5	165:14,14	<b>3:32</b> 173:20
77:6 79:20	53:25	166:20 170:3	<b>3d</b> 103:21
127:13,19	<b>22nd</b> 80:4 82:3	189:2 218:20	106:21 147:9,9
<b>2015</b> 27:17	<b>23</b> 1:17 4:2	237:3 238:8	214:22
37:19 62:17	71:7,18,19	<b>300</b> 237:18	<b>4</b>
95:7 96:1,7,11	235:2	<b>30030</b> 2:9	<b>4</b> 3:17 50:3,6
96:18,19 97:3	<b>23.2</b> 151:14	<b>30076</b> 237:18	50:21 51:3
97:21 98:1,19	<b>23.6</b> 151:6	<b>30326</b> 2:17	57:22 58:1,4
101:24 202:16			58:11,11 59:3

[4 - access]

Page 3

59:13,22 85:21 85:24 86:6 184:22 224:23 228:7,16 229:7 229:8 <b>4.36</b> 148:10 <b>40</b> 115:2 <b>40-8-6</b> 198:7 <b>40.6</b> 111:13 <b>40.6.</b> 111:20 <b>400</b> 52:15 <b>4000</b> 112:14 205:13 <b>43</b> 3:14 127:21 128:2 <b>45</b> 38:22 76:8 <b>450</b> 64:5 <b>48</b> 98:17 <b>49</b> 93:16 <b>4:07</b> 201:5 <b>4:22</b> 201:8 <b>4:51</b> 223:16 <b>4:55</b> 223:19	<b>50</b> 3:17,18 46:23,24 <b>50/50</b> 46:17 47:13,20 <b>51</b> 113:23 205:25 <b>52</b> 168:18 226:4,5 <b>520</b> 232:11 <b>55</b> 76:4,9 225:9 225:24 226:4 <b>563</b> 93:16 <b>57</b> 127:21 128:1 <b>57/43</b> 182:11 <b>5:11</b> 233:10,12	<b>6.6</b> 224:7 225:9 <b>60.6</b> 181:23 <b>6395968</b> 238:1 <b>65,000</b> 70:1 <b>6th</b> 64:5	<b>ability</b> 235:14 <b>able</b> 6:12,23 7:20 12:6 31:21 44:16 58:16 59:5,12 63:13 72:15 124:1 <b>abnormal</b> 136:19,25 137:4 161:22 <b>above</b> 33:15 34:9 114:21 131:20 132:6 132:10 133:5 133:23 138:12 215:4,5 217:25 221:15 237:14 <b>abreast</b> 14:23 <b>abs</b> 109:11 <b>absent</b> 140:4 <b>absolutely</b> 177:16 178:15 <b>absolutism</b> 30:5 31:13 <b>absorb</b> 33:7 150:12 231:19 231:20 <b>accelerations</b> 21:6 <b>accept</b> 51:24 <b>acceptable</b> 97:3 <b>accepted</b> 188:25 <b>access</b> 234:23 234:24
	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	
		<b>7</b> 3:21 75:12,14 99:17 100:5 103:19 201:23 226:17 238:8 <b>73</b> 3:19 <b>75</b> 3:21 86:14 87:4 <b>770</b> 237:19	
		<b>8</b>	
		<b>8</b> 3:23 103:19 105:5,15 117:6 <b>8,040</b> 88:23 <b>885</b> 2:8	
		<b>9</b>	
		<b>9</b> 108:4 <b>9-11-28</b> 234:6 <b>9-11-30</b> 238:9 <b>9/6</b> 66:10 <b>999</b> 117:11	
<b>5</b>		<b>a</b>	
<b>5</b> 3:3,18 50:22 51:3 102:19 127:6,8,10 128:18,25 129:2,11 138:12,13,20 138:22,23 211:12,12 217:13 219:14 219:14 224:14 226:15	<b>6</b> 3:19 57:23 58:1,3,9 59:3 59:13 73:13,15 94:21 101:6,7 101:7 102:16 106:3 137:24 138:6,6,6,7 146:21,22,23 147:1,5 224:9 224:9,11,12 226:5,8,8,12,14 226:20 228:17 228:17,18 229:3,20 <b>6.1</b> 101:8 224:6 225:5,6,7 226:10 228:8	<b>a.m.</b> 1:18 4:2,5 <b>aa</b> 206:24 207:2,5,18 <b>ab</b> 206:24 207:3 208:18 209:19 <b>abilities</b> 5:24 8:25	

**[accident - additional]**

Page 4

<b>accident</b> 9:3 16:5 17:13 18:5,8,9,11,16 18:18,19,25 19:3,6,8,10 20:5,18,22,25 21:2,4 24:2 26:11 27:6,10 27:16,23 32:8 33:5 36:14 37:9,18,20 38:18 42:8 44:5,12 53:15 64:8 65:25 66:10,24 69:8 69:11,14 78:17 86:10 89:21 95:1 96:9 97:1 97:25 98:4,25 100:17,25 102:6 110:3 114:4 116:16 117:18 118:3 118:13,21 119:24 120:1,5 120:22 121:13 122:11,24 125:4,4,6,8,9 125:14 138:17 146:15 152:13 152:15,24,25 153:21 160:21 174:22,23 176:9,25 180:9 192:8 196:19	197:13 202:17 203:14,20 204:22,24,24 205:15,17 206:1 213:20 216:24 222:8 222:14 225:23 227:21 <b>accidents</b> 44:9 196:21 197:6,7 197:10,17 205:3 230:20 <b>account</b> 82:21 97:21 100:22 102:8 134:11 156:15 171:12 202:3 227:14 227:24 <b>accounted</b> 110:22 111:6 171:20 202:9 202:14 <b>accounting</b> 182:7 <b>accurate</b> 69:17 77:7,17 143:14 157:3 194:9 234:11 <b>acknowledge</b> 197:2 <b>acknowledged</b> 194:25 <b>acm</b> 106:24,25 107:12,16 108:5,17	<b>acms</b> 108:1 <b>act</b> 27:2 35:3 <b>acting</b> 36:8 <b>action</b> 52:12 86:9 234:14 235:20 <b>activities</b> 53:22 67:4 <b>actual</b> 6:3 18:11,15,18 19:8,8,10 20:17 21:2,4 26:6,8,11 27:16,22 28:22 28:25 31:2,6 32:24 37:8 39:2 52:8,25 66:24 84:20 86:3 90:22 94:25 107:10 107:15 110:3 118:10 140:3 145:24 151:7 155:2 167:21 172:3,16,19,22 205:8,15 216:24 222:8 230:16 <b>actuality</b> 107:24 <b>actually</b> 8:20 11:21 13:25 14:25 16:20 18:19 19:1 20:23,23 24:13	26:21,22 27:13 30:19 34:23 38:9 47:11 56:20,23 57:5 57:12 64:7,10 64:13 77:5,16 79:19 87:7 89:11 95:19 101:23 102:1 103:3 104:1 107:13 110:9 111:25 112:20 121:16,17 122:12 131:3 138:24 140:10 156:17 157:4 163:18 165:4 171:5 182:15 193:1 204:10 214:18,18 221:3 <b>adapt</b> 132:24 134:2 <b>add</b> 28:13 38:18,18 82:14 129:10,20 138:14 185:15 185:24 226:13 <b>added</b> 110:11 <b>adding</b> 28:14 89:17 134:22 <b>additional</b> 14:15 55:13 68:5,24,25 106:4 146:23
---	--	---	--

[additional - answer]

Page 5

238:15	<b>aftermarket</b>	<b>allowed</b> 79:1	176:20 191:11
<b>address</b> 166:24	97:17	187:14	206:7 209:23
<b>adds</b> 182:21	<b>age</b> 26:3	<b>alluded</b> 49:15	210:9 211:11
<b>adjust</b> 32:14	<b>ago</b> 7:2 9:4,4	66:1 145:4	212:13 225:18
98:20 159:11	13:24 14:12	<b>alternative</b>	227:6 229:24
185:15	66:1 111:21	209:19	233:1
<b>adjusted</b>	112:5 163:7	<b>amended</b> 3:9	<b>analyze</b> 30:19
185:12,18	230:8	73:25	37:2 38:5
<b>adjusting</b> 17:18	<b>agree</b> 31:4	<b>amount</b> 26:16	116:23 137:7
17:24 194:14	32:12 40:10,23	29:24 46:3	164:23 165:3
<b>adjustment</b>	91:9 145:12,14	66:9 70:3 78:2	167:12 169:6
99:14	145:20 161:8	78:11 116:14	<b>analyzing</b>
<b>adjustments</b>	170:11 171:7	116:23 207:9	40:12 125:12
16:3 17:6,7	171:13 197:10	224:4	158:17 167:3
182:4	197:20	<b>anal</b> 40:14	167:18
<b>administrators</b>	<b>agreed</b> 10:11	<b>analyses</b> 210:1	<b>ancillary</b>
1:4	<b>agreeing</b> 196:4	210:13 211:7	236:13
<b>admissible</b>	<b>agreement</b>	211:11,15	<b>angle</b> 221:8
165:4	234:15,17	<b>analysis</b> 18:25	<b>angled</b> 181:10
<b>admittedly</b>	<b>ahead</b> 60:4	24:21 44:5	<b>ans</b> 37:13
22:5	89:8 134:19	53:24 54:6	<b>answer</b> 18:16
<b>adr</b> 107:6	157:7 177:4	55:11 66:18	24:7 25:1 27:7
<b>advantages</b>	182:5	79:24 84:3,18	30:7 35:11,12
21:20	<b>aiding</b> 55:2	84:23 85:19	36:6 38:24
<b>aerial</b> 53:14	<b>airbag</b> 91:22	106:24 115:4	49:19 77:9
61:22	92:1,4,9,15	116:10 117:10	88:19 96:19
<b>aerials</b> 61:17	<b>airbags</b> 74:5	117:14 125:12	97:24 101:5
<b>affect</b> 133:20	107:13,18	126:24 128:13	104:3 109:8
198:15	<b>algorithm</b>	128:16 130:9	113:2 132:23
<b>affected</b> 135:22	156:4,8,13	130:13 134:13	138:22 139:9,9
159:24	158:8,10,12,14	135:16 137:22	144:15 154:25
<b>affects</b> 154:16	158:15	138:4 140:17	157:13 162:8
<b>afield</b> 159:7	<b>allow</b> 25:17	145:5 151:17	165:19 176:13
<b>afraid</b> 93:6	79:4 159:10	151:18 153:5,8	182:11 185:5,6
	210:3	163:13 164:11	186:19,21,23

[answer - assigns]

Page 6

195:11 197:25 199:8 200:7 206:12 211:5 214:10,10,11 217:24,25 229:3 <b>answered</b> 31:18 37:4 40:2 92:18 112:7 137:11 <b>answering</b> 38:12,14 49:18 <b>answers</b> 38:15 114:22 115:1,2 173:6 205:22 206:23 212:10 234:20 235:11 236:4 <b>anticipated</b> 37:18 216:14 216:16 <b>anticipation</b> 11:1 <b>anybody</b> 7:8 9:25 160:11 166:23 <b>anymore</b> 36:21 39:2 164:18 <b>anyway</b> 111:22 <b>anyways</b> 26:14 81:20 91:14 208:13 <b>apart</b> 36:22 79:4 170:18	<b>apologies</b> 157:8 197:5 <b>apologize</b> 63:17 66:16 105:12 113:15 149:1 175:25 <b>apparent</b> 121:11 <b>apparently</b> 71:20 89:24 <b>appear</b> 55:20 56:1 <b>appearance</b> 194:8 <b>appearances</b> 2:1 <b>appeared</b> 4:1 <b>appearing</b> 1:14 <b>appears</b> 12:20 51:12,12 53:23 56:1 64:3 66:9 223:5 <b>appendix</b> 209:9 210:4 <b>apples</b> 33:3 136:9 171:15 <b>applied</b> 90:19 234:18 236:12 <b>apply</b> 148:22 167:2 <b>appreciate</b> 30:7 70:10 75:23 158:9 181:1 223:22	<b>appreciated</b> 36:11 <b>approach</b> 28:20 30:4 102:3 <b>appropriate</b> 25:6 32:23 33:20 34:7 39:4,6,11,14 165:20 174:18 191:4 <b>appropriately</b> 37:14 <b>approximate</b> 191:20 229:11 <b>approximately</b> 4:5 14:11 70:1 111:15 117:25 227:15 <b>archive</b> 6:24 <b>archived</b> 6:18 6:20 <b>area</b> 83:11 84:25 85:3,10 89:2 92:3 102:18,21 103:4,5,6 121:16 123:22 133:3,17 134:22 135:13 140:24 142:7 145:25 147:13 158:4 194:24 215:1	<b>areas</b> 35:16 148:11 158:25 200:3 212:18 <b>argue</b> 214:12 229:17 <b>argument</b> 126:14,18 166:3 <b>arms</b> 135:2 <b>array</b> 218:12 <b>article</b> 234:4 <b>articles</b> 166:2 167:11 <b>asked</b> 34:16 45:10 46:11 47:22 49:14 87:13 92:17 104:1 107:21 192:15 198:25 224:2 230:25 <b>asking</b> 37:7,13 38:13 59:25 100:5 105:17 112:11 142:17 167:22 220:15 229:23 230:21 <b>asks</b> 47:10 <b>aspect</b> 22:19 <b>assign</b> 207:11 <b>assigned</b> 234:10 <b>assignment</b> 238:1 <b>assigns</b> 158:15
---	--	--	---

[assist - based]

Page 7

<b>assist</b> 40:16 238:13	<b>attribute</b> 182:19	234:18 235:24 236:12	<b>background</b> 60:21 198:11
<b>associated</b> 23:22 49:7 93:24	<b>attributes</b> 145:23	<b>b's</b> 206:21	198:18
<b>association</b> 50:14	<b>audio</b> 11:22 63:17 99:19 103:16	<b>ba</b> 207:5,18	<b>backseat</b> 33:6 82:18 83:9,9 83:10 88:13
<b>assume</b> 30:20 52:16 64:5 65:11	<b>authors</b> 230:7	<b>back</b> 12:3 15:13 27:4 30:13 34:20,21 41:12 43:12 47:18 53:7 54:19,20,21 61:3 63:7 65:8 67:23 70:12,17 74:9 76:7,10 79:9 81:2 82:17 83:17 85:16 87:15,16 87:18,23 88:7 88:9 89:5 90:1 92:16,23 100:3 107:23 112:21 112:21 116:6,9 122:2 125:1 127:2,6,22 138:14 141:13 143:25 146:7 150:20 154:18 154:18 156:20 167:2 170:3 173:21 182:2 184:11 187:3 201:9 221:11 223:20 228:15 229:4,8,10 230:9 237:3	<b>bad</b> 89:9 151:2 200:21
<b>assumed</b> 161:2	<b>automatically</b> 181:25 234:18 236:12		<b>badly</b> 78:5 217:23
<b>assumes</b> 29:2	<b>automotive</b> 208:24		<b>balance</b> 47:19 112:2 113:22 114:3,24 119:25
<b>assuming</b> 11:7 13:18 69:7 74:14 88:23 120:18,20 164:22	<b>autostat</b> 127:13		<b>balanced</b> 156:22
<b>atlanta</b> 2:17 56:17	<b>autostats</b> 126:23		<b>bar</b> 34:17 121:17 123:21 124:6,8,10 126:7 129:23
<b>attach</b> 10:18 238:16	<b>av</b> 156:17,24		<b>barrier</b> 23:23 208:3
<b>attached</b> 10:20 75:8 79:2 95:19 201:17 236:6 237:6,7	<b>available</b> 31:17 61:21 63:8 96:11 166:19 236:9,14		<b>base</b> 60:6,8,8,9 60:12 61:10 103:6,7 225:14
<b>attachment</b> 75:1	<b>avenue</b> 2:7		<b>based</b> 10:25 87:21 90:11 92:5 103:24 119:11 120:21 120:24,25 123:16 131:3 131:19 139:3 140:8 141:21 141:23 144:1,6 144:10 145:19
<b>attempt</b> 10:8 204:21 205:16	<b>aware</b> 6:11 11:16 43:14 49:11 68:24 76:8 160:2 179:15,16 198:19 199:13		
<b>attention</b> 48:17	<b>axis</b> 127:25		
<b>attorney</b> 234:16 235:17 235:19 237:12	<b>axle</b> 128:2,3		
<b>attorneys</b> 234:22 236:7	<b>b</b> 1:23 3:5 45:7 206:17 207:11 207:15 208:5 232:15 234:4,7		

[based - body]

Page 8

150:5,8,9 151:11,12 152:5,8,15 156:10 158:20 161:3 162:16 164:11 165:11 175:16 181:16 184:5 215:16 215:20 230:15 230:17 <b>baseline</b> 18:10 28:23 31:5 199:16 <b>basic</b> 212:7 <b>basically</b> 11:12 15:17 28:14 36:18 39:16,16 45:2 66:15 79:10 82:14 111:5 113:19 124:12 131:23 132:21 140:18 147:13 151:21 154:17,23 155:9 158:15 221:11 <b>basis</b> 81:18 140:9 141:8 234:8 <b>bate</b> 68:17 129:19 <b>bates</b> 73:23 117:10 149:8 <b>bb</b> 207:3 208:19	<b>bearing</b> 171:15 <b>beginning</b> 12:11 22:11 25:13,14 119:5 169:20 220:3 <b>begins</b> 105:16 <b>behalf</b> 2:3,11 4:18 46:24,25 <b>belief</b> 71:12 84:6 123:17 228:23 231:25 <b>believe</b> 6:3 9:2 13:14 21:22 22:25 30:10 39:4,10 50:1 51:3,8 52:2 58:10 72:1,5 73:8 84:16 94:22 108:11 113:24 117:21 120:22 130:22 151:25 155:24 165:22 176:18 191:2 198:10 200:13,13 228:11 230:8 230:12 231:1 231:11 <b>believed</b> 39:8 50:25 114:3 <b>believing</b> 44:8 <b>bend</b> 24:13,14 26:19 122:14 135:1	<b>bends</b> 24:15 <b>beneficial</b> 19:18 <b>benefit</b> 75:9 <b>bent</b> 77:24 78:1 78:4 127:4 <b>best</b> 5:23 8:24 27:7 49:19 88:13 151:16 165:19 191:3 227:2 235:14 <b>better</b> 29:25 30:1 32:3,5 55:1 97:20,24 102:14 141:18 145:15 176:8 176:13 194:5 203:5 <b>beyond</b> 127:10 147:24 159:18 194:24 <b>big</b> 18:13 125:5 <b>bill</b> 54:10 55:8 64:3 65:10,13 69:4,5 <b>billboard</b> 122:25 126:9 <b>billed</b> 51:23 54:24 55:4,10 55:17,20 56:2 66:9 <b>billing</b> 53:6,7 68:1 70:5,24 <b>billings</b> 70:1	<b>bills</b> 63:19,23 67:22 69:2 <b>biomechanic</b> 84:22 <b>biomechanical</b> 85:12 <b>bit</b> 17:11,24 22:10 24:15,16 55:16 88:15 113:10 134:21 141:12 145:15 146:7 152:4 154:3 156:2 175:8 182:14 182:21 217:2 221:14 226:1 230:25 <b>bites</b> 15:18 <b>black</b> 93:23 222:8 223:5,7 <b>blah</b> 56:24 <b>blame</b> 171:15 <b>blanks</b> 20:12 21:12 <b>blue</b> 117:19,21 118:8,15 193:21 213:14 213:23 214:16 216:7 220:23 221:13 222:6,7 223:4,8 <b>board</b> 234:5 <b>body</b> 96:14 224:4,9,12 225:6 226:8,11
---	---	---	---



[body - c.f.r.]

Page 9

226:11,12,20 <b>boils</b> 18:14 <b>bolted</b> 79:2 <b>book</b> 41:19 42:3 <b>books</b> 41:12,15 <b>bottom</b> 66:8 102:16,18,22 102:23,24,25 103:2 205:22 206:5 217:4,11 217:14 <b>bought</b> 57:21 57:22 <b>bounces</b> 78:9 <b>box</b> 32:3 43:5 93:2,23 183:24 184:1,4 226:2 226:21 227:12 <b>boxes</b> 184:6 225:22 <b>bracket</b> 226:21 227:10 <b>brackets</b> 78:20 79:5 212:9 <b>brain</b> 21:19 <b>break</b> 63:11,13 63:15,19,21 67:19,21 70:9 90:8 113:13 115:24 173:10 173:12,15 199:21 201:1 <b>breakdown</b> 46:10,17	<b>briefly</b> 11:21 <b>bring</b> 5:16 12:25 <b>brock</b> 163:24 164:6 <b>brothers</b> 163:24 164:7 <b>brought</b> 5:11 11:11,12 <b>bryant</b> 1:13 3:12,14 4:8 5:1 161:18 235:2 237:2 239:19 <b>bryson</b> 1:4,4 3:20,22,25 73:23 74:23 112:14 137:21 183:14,15,16 <b>buchner</b> 1:13 3:12,15 4:8,22 5:1,3,6 73:18 161:18 223:21 235:2 237:2 239:19 <b>built</b> 33:13 <b>bullet</b> 13:16 77:22 80:2 88:22 137:22 140:6 148:16 148:20 153:1,4 153:12 195:13 <b>bump</b> 149:24 <b>bumper</b> 28:3,3 29:20,20 30:16 30:16,22,23,23	33:15 34:9,10 34:17,17 36:3 36:3 39:7,7,22 39:22 77:23 78:7,8,13,21,22 79:1,1,3 88:1 105:25 120:7,7 120:10,14,18 121:7,16,17 122:1,2,7,7,12 122:13,14 123:15,18,19 123:20,21,22 124:3,3,6,7,10 124:19 126:7 126:15,16 127:3,6,9 128:20 129:3 129:11 130:15 130:17,19 131:5,13,19,21 131:24 132:8 132:11,11,12 132:16,21,23 133:1,22 136:7 136:8,16,18,20 136:23 137:6,6 137:13,13 140:6,10,13,18 140:21,23 141:4 142:1,18 143:5,11,18,21 144:9,23,25 145:3,18 146:7 146:9,11	148:10 149:12 149:16 150:3 156:11 157:5 157:18,25,25 158:9 160:6 168:14,14 192:7,7,9 197:11,16,17 204:12,12,19 204:19 205:5,5 214:5,5,6 215:1,7,8,10,14 215:15 216:1,4 216:12,14,16 216:17,18,23 217:10,11,13 217:14,15,18 217:20 218:1,9 219:9,10,20,23 220:7,7,17 221:14,15 <b>bumpers</b> 78:4 120:25 124:13 124:13 161:19 218:20 219:13 220:16 <b>business</b> 189:1 <b>busy</b> 53:12 <b>butler</b> 47:25 <b>buy</b> 96:23 <b>c</b> <b>c</b> 33:6 234:6 235:1,1 <b>c.f.r.</b> 93:16,18
---	--	--	--



<b>c.z.b.</b> 1:5,6	151:7,13 152:5	<b>calendar</b>	167:13,22
<b>cad</b> 101:17,18	155:17 157:11	236:13	168:5 174:12
101:25 105:5	157:12,23	<b>calibrate</b> 32:10	174:16 177:18
105:16	159:5 160:18	81:11	178:1,3 197:14
<b>cake</b> 125:22	163:25 170:8	<b>calibrated</b> 82:2	200:6 203:16
154:14	170:17 184:9	82:8 109:7	203:20 233:6
<b>calculate</b> 21:7	205:7,23	<b>calibration</b>	237:1
24:23 41:10	206:10,20	81:15,15,21,22	<b>cannella's</b>
109:7 111:2	210:16 212:22	82:5	47:24 48:13
132:9 137:2,5	219:15 224:3	<b>calibrations</b>	49:15
152:8 161:20	<b>calculations</b>	81:23	<b>cannellasnyd...</b>
170:1 188:22	21:9,16 67:9	<b>call</b> 7:3 15:12	237:1
188:22 189:24	84:5 87:8	19:5 26:16	<b>capable</b> 162:21
207:15	109:25 110:9	51:24 54:9	<b>capacity</b> 80:23
<b>calculated</b> 3:23	110:18 111:9	75:10 79:10,11	<b>capital</b> 206:21
112:18 117:19	115:19 116:14	94:10 98:24	206:21
117:20 118:9	118:11 119:11	103:4 123:20	<b>caption</b> 235:8
119:10,20	119:12,13,21	136:21 147:19	<b>captured</b> 55:1
139:2,5,22,24	120:6,17	175:14	<b>car</b> 24:4 26:17
144:6,9 204:13	130:12 132:21	<b>called</b> 32:18	33:6 34:18,23
208:4 215:11	133:2,5 138:25	123:22 155:22	36:15,19,20,21
230:16	139:3,12,17	163:12 176:17	36:23,25 37:2
<b>calculates</b>	151:18 152:13	183:9	45:7,7 61:25
117:24 207:16	153:3,5,7,8,11	<b>calls</b> 47:10,14	65:24 82:23,25
<b>calculating</b>	171:12 172:5	<b>camber</b> 228:21	83:5 85:4
109:20 118:22	172:20,25	<b>campbell</b>	87:14 102:24
131:13 135:25	173:5 184:21	133:24	102:25 103:1,2
136:12 152:22	190:25 191:2	<b>campbell's</b>	103:3,7 118:13
<b>calculation</b>	191:20 192:6	152:6	150:16 168:17
29:11 106:7	200:11 203:9	<b>cannella</b> 2:4,6	202:5 209:18
111:13 112:7	204:1 205:20	4:12,12,16,16	215:21 216:11
112:22 114:18	206:22 218:11	8:1 29:1 48:2	216:12 217:1,1
115:17,18,20	225:8,13	49:7 99:23	217:21 222:3
118:25 120:4	<b>calculator</b>	105:9 134:16	<b>car's</b> 217:23
132:13,14	157:15 170:6	141:10 167:5	

[card - child]

Page 11

<b>card</b> 87:20	96:6 107:2	<b>center</b> 103:25	182:11 185:11
<b>careful</b> 158:24	113:6 134:23	181:2,5 184:22	185:24 197:18
<b>carefully</b>	136:10 151:24	215:10,15	211:5 238:19
112:22	159:3 161:18	<b>certain</b> 65:4	239:1
<b>cargo</b> 82:18,22	163:19 165:10	162:1 215:22	<b>changed</b> 31:3
83:5,5,17 89:1	165:11 166:6	<b>certainly</b> 84:11	45:25 67:19
133:3,12	167:2,12,14,18	84:23 150:15	73:25 74:10
134:12,22	168:2,4 169:13	<b>certainty</b> 28:15	144:12,13
135:13,17	170:9 172:21	<b>certificate</b>	154:15 169:16
144:22 145:2	181:11 182:12	236:1	217:1
145:10,25	184:25 185:8	<b>certificates</b>	<b>changes</b> 159:10
185:16	185:11 189:12	236:9	234:21 237:7
<b>carlo</b> 151:18,24	189:18,25	<b>certified</b> 234:9	238:5,6,9
<b>carry</b> 80:9 81:5	190:8 195:19	234:21 236:4,5	<b>changing</b>
<b>cars</b> 24:5 39:17	198:9,24 234:8	236:6,8	154:17
39:18 40:6	234:8,18	<b>certify</b> 235:6,16	<b>channel</b> 109:16
78:3 196:2,20	235:18 236:5,7	238:2	<b>charge</b> 57:17
199:12 215:17	236:12	<b>cg</b> 181:18 185:7	60:5
<b>case</b> 1:7 6:4,11	<b>cases</b> 43:14,15	185:9	<b>charged</b> 50:12
6:22 7:1,3 11:5	43:19 44:2,4	<b>cg's</b> 16:17	<b>charges</b> 60:8
11:13 13:5	45:12,16 46:12	<b>chainsaw</b>	<b>charging</b> 50:14
17:7,15,20,24	46:15,18,23	183:24 184:1	52:2
18:5 19:22	47:3,11,23	<b>challenge</b> 166:1	<b>check</b> 16:1,17
20:4 22:2	48:14 163:20	<b>challenged</b>	21:18 61:18
25:11 26:7,9	172:19	165:11	76:11 81:13,15
30:21 33:2	<b>catch</b> 4:15	<b>chance</b> 88:12	151:18 191:24
39:12 40:3,5	<b>categorize</b>	126:2,4	227:1
40:16 44:11,18	39:22	<b>change</b> 16:18	<b>checked</b> 109:11
50:12,15 51:1	<b>cause</b> 45:23	17:12 30:21	<b>checking</b> 81:22
51:10,15 53:1	232:10	42:25 84:2	223:10
54:16,22 55:14	<b>caved</b> 26:21	97:8 98:22	<b>checks</b> 82:5
55:21 59:20	<b>ccr</b> 1:23 235:24	101:8 115:10	<b>chief</b> 52:15
65:15 68:10,14	<b>cdr</b> 56:21,25	118:20 125:14	55:3
69:2 81:4	57:3	155:9 158:19	<b>child</b> 140:11
85:14 91:6,6		175:6 180:20	146:1 194:23

<b>child's</b> 84:19 84:24 85:3,8 102:21 147:14 <b>choice</b> 35:23 39:20 <b>choose</b> 39:21 99:6 132:5,8 172:13,14 218:15 <b>chose</b> 151:20 163:6 184:5 <b>chronologica...</b> 51:9 <b>circumstances</b> 14:7 39:6 <b>cite</b> 41:9 167:10 <b>civil</b> 238:9 <b>claiming</b> 144:13 <b>clarify</b> 54:12 90:18 103:9 191:25 195:5 226:9 <b>clarifying</b> 173:24 195:16 233:4 <b>class</b> 130:22 <b>classes</b> 42:21 <b>classical</b> 157:15 <b>cleaner</b> 82:19 84:4 <b>clear</b> 77:9,15 77:19 93:12 100:14,15 102:20 116:12	178:9 180:23 186:25 <b>clearance</b> 86:12,13 87:4 <b>cleared</b> 180:24 <b>clearinghouses</b> 189:5 <b>clearly</b> 28:5 29:19 58:24 135:22 <b>client</b> 51:19,19 52:4 54:9,17 <b>clip</b> 24:14 <b>close</b> 29:7 98:15 138:7 175:15 181:7 229:8 <b>closer</b> 105:12 182:21 226:7 226:13 <b>closest</b> 149:19 149:22 <b>code</b> 92:9,12 93:17 107:22 198:7,8,14 234:13 <b>coefficient</b> 17:25 22:15 23:8,11 24:24 25:4 26:10 110:17,20 112:1 114:8 115:3,8,11 119:16 120:9 130:5 155:10	158:16 159:11 169:17 174:2,5 176:3,4,8,24 177:3,9,14,21 177:22 178:13 178:13,19 179:23 180:3,8 180:19 187:4,5 187:7 188:14 189:25 190:14 190:21 191:1,4 191:10,21 192:14,20 193:1 203:11 203:13,23 204:2,3,11,22 206:25 207:8 207:11 210:5 230:4 232:8 <b>coefficients</b> 22:23 132:9 133:19,20 155:19 156:10 177:10 178:17 179:1,18 180:20 187:10 188:18 204:5 206:9,18 208:2 208:19 209:12 209:22,25 229:24 231:16 <b>cohen</b> 183:16 <b>collapse</b> 162:25 <b>collapsing</b> 162:5	<b>collected</b> 166:2 <b>collecting</b> 71:21 <b>collision</b> 23:12 23:16,20 29:20 30:17 36:8,12 90:22 91:3 94:14,14 108:12 123:8 150:5 160:24 161:21,22 190:6 192:17 192:18 195:9 195:20 204:12 <b>collisions</b> 78:4 150:18 170:1 195:2 196:12 <b>colloquies</b> 234:20 235:10 236:4 <b>color</b> 194:10,11 <b>column</b> 229:22 <b>combination</b> 228:14 <b>combine</b> 178:22 <b>combined</b> 24:24 25:4 176:7 <b>combo</b> 103:24 <b>come</b> 15:8 41:14 45:6 54:25 78:18 79:1 90:1 93:7 99:14 119:6
--	--	--	---

**[come - considerations]**

Page 13

122:2 173:6 175:3 179:14 183:25 207:17 225:25 226:22 <b>comes</b> 22:9 47:7,8 166:17 218:5 230:3 <b>comfortable</b> 28:6 35:16 148:25 189:2 211:23 212:9 213:4 <b>coming</b> 122:5 220:2 231:14 <b>comment</b> 140:5 <b>commenting</b> 86:3 219:2 <b>comments</b> 85:25 <b>commercial</b> 195:24 <b>commission</b> 239:25 <b>committed</b> 104:10 <b>common</b> 80:16 <b>communicati...</b> 10:25 11:3 51:18 54:17 <b>company's</b> 51:15 <b>comparable</b> 220:23 <b>compare</b> 97:19 140:22 143:9	198:20 <b>compared</b> 100:11,12,14 102:18 138:1 150:17 <b>comparing</b> 97:15 105:22 106:8 142:21 216:2 230:19 <b>comparison</b> 33:4 95:25 102:22 105:6 105:16 141:8 <b>comparisons</b> 106:13 <b>compensation</b> 234:14 <b>competing</b> 227:3 <b>complaint</b> 35:4 <b>complete</b> 145:6 234:10,20 236:4,6 <b>completed</b> 237:17 <b>completely</b> 78:18 217:21 <b>complex</b> 40:11 40:24 41:1,3,7 42:4 143:15 145:5 167:18 167:24 168:9 169:5 <b>compliance</b> 234:3,13	<b>complicated</b> 157:10,11 <b>component</b> 9:18 177:13 <b>components</b> 42:10 58:25 141:5 162:6,24 163:3 <b>compound</b> 48:3 <b>computer</b> 7:8 34:25 37:1 159:23 210:18 <b>computers</b> 89:24 <b>concern</b> 92:17 <b>concerned</b> 27:13 163:23 229:2 <b>conclude</b> 121:6 162:15 <b>concluded</b> 106:6 233:12 <b>concludes</b> 233:9 <b>concluding</b> 120:21,24 <b>conclusion</b> 140:9 <b>conclusions</b> 119:6 137:23 <b>condition</b> 120:5 140:19 145:19 146:5 160:8 <b>conditions</b> 31:3 124:23	<b>conference</b> 14:6 52:3 54:5 54:8 <b>confidence</b> 155:11 <b>configuration</b> 96:2 117:22 126:2,18 148:17 153:20 161:6 229:11 <b>confining</b> 132:15 <b>confirm</b> 51:10 76:6 99:15 <b>confirmation</b> 102:12 <b>confirmed</b> 69:15 <b>confused</b> 18:21 98:8,10 152:3 <b>confusing</b> 177:17 <b>confusion</b> 58:18 <b>connected</b> 116:19 <b>conservative</b> 231:7 <b>consider</b> 160:24 187:9 188:5 <b>consideration</b> 35:1 <b>considerations</b> 159:8
--	--	---	---

[considered - crash]

Page 14

<b>considered</b> 186:25	<b>controlling</b> 159:2	153:15 158:17	<b>course</b> 15:18
<b>consistency</b> 188:23	<b>controls</b> 9:10	159:12 164:24	158:9 183:16
<b>consistent</b> 26:11 28:25	<b>convenient</b> 21:11 56:15	164:25,25	192:8 223:3
<b>constant</b> 232:17	<b>convention</b> 91:16	166:8 180:22	227:1 231:23
<b>consulting</b> 43:18	<b>conversation</b> 38:8 94:12	193:22 213:10	232:21
<b>contact</b> 9:22	<b>convert</b> 109:4	219:25 234:20	<b>courses</b> 152:7,7
16:23 39:7	<b>coordinators</b> 236:3,8	235:14 236:4,6	<b>court</b> 1:1 4:15
42:23 122:8,9	<b>copies</b> 7:6,16	<b>correction</b> 223:24	4:20,22 49:25
157:4 158:5	71:2 73:1	<b>corrections</b> 237:7 238:14	73:14 99:18
220:7	236:8 237:13	<b>correctly</b> 37:25	141:14,15
<b>contacted</b> 234:16	<b>copy</b> 6:8,9,12	93:6	164:24 201:22
<b>contacts</b> 56:12	12:25 73:4,4	<b>correlate</b> 203:12 204:4,7	208:16 234:5,9
<b>contain</b> 7:21	73:17,20 236:6	205:2	234:21 236:5
8:3 231:25	<b>corner</b> 43:5	<b>correlates</b> 205:15	237:15,18
<b>contained</b> 104:24 179:19	<b>corporation</b> 13:17	<b>correlation</b> 232:24	<b>cover</b> 78:8,8
180:4	<b>correct</b> 19:3	<b>corresponds</b> 215:1,13	89:1,6,10,13,15
<b>contemplated</b> 28:6	22:25 30:23	<b>coughed</b> 62:6	89:18,18 92:25
<b>context</b> 94:3	33:1 43:16	<b>counsel</b> 2:1 4:9	180:9 190:4
203:14	52:16 54:2	5:14,17 6:5	<b>covered</b> 200:5
<b>contract</b> 234:14	55:21,22 56:25	10:25 11:20	201:1
<b>contracts</b> 234:8	61:8,9 68:10	99:22 234:2	<b>covers</b> 193:24
<b>contributed</b> 22:20 44:24	69:3 73:14	235:17,19	194:1
<b>control</b> 24:20	75:13 86:4	<b>country</b> 1:9 3:8	<b>crash</b> 9:18 24:4
47:10	105:25 110:5	57:19,23 59:1	24:4,18 25:24
	112:19 114:6	<b>couple</b> 5:7	26:7,15 28:5
	115:5 119:8	68:19 85:25	28:22,25,25
	120:12 127:22	93:13 108:5	30:19 31:2,3,6
	132:22 153:9	173:24 217:4	31:8,10,19
			32:25 33:12,13
			35:21 36:24
			37:24 38:3
			39:2 41:16
			62:25 78:12
			82:12,21 83:7
			83:19,24 84:2

[crash - d]

Page 15

105:6,16 107:4 115:17,21 117:4 121:4 122:7 131:14 135:23 136:2,3 136:14,22 137:17 143:5,8 162:2,25 163:24 164:6 164:10 167:21 167:24 168:15 168:17,25 169:5,7,18 171:6,10,20 172:4,7,13,16 172:20,23,25 173:1,2,4 176:11,14 180:13,17 181:8,10 188:16,20 189:11,16,21 189:24 202:25 204:19 205:5,8 207:21 230:16 230:19 231:7 <b>crashed</b> 146:6 <b>crashes</b> 20:11 20:13 37:2 39:22 133:16 <b>crashing</b> 35:2 <b>crazy</b> 29:8 <b>create</b> 28:23 115:9,12,14	<b>created</b> 214:16 <b>creates</b> 34:11 37:23 <b>creating</b> 125:3 125:4 <b>crescent</b> 32:4,4 32:13 35:7,8 <b>critical</b> 28:20 187:2 194:16 <b>crossed</b> 5:24 177:20 <b>crowbar</b> 63:7 <b>crumpled</b> 194:13 <b>crush</b> 3:24 39:18 40:11,17 40:21,24,24 41:11,22 42:4 42:8 44:25 45:7 85:19 94:24,25 106:4 106:6,22 114:25,25 115:4 116:10 116:14,23 117:10,14,21 118:3,4,5,12,21 118:22 119:2 125:12 126:24 126:25 127:1 128:13,16 129:7,10,14,21 129:22 130:4,9 130:10,11,14 130:18 131:7	131:12,17,20 132:6,6,10,13 132:20 133:1,4 133:19,22,23 134:12 141:3 141:21 142:5 143:17 146:14 146:22,25 147:2,16,18,24 147:24 148:1 148:18,20 150:4 152:9,24 153:4,7 155:18 156:10 161:11 163:5,7,8,9,20 163:23,23 164:2,4,5,7,17 164:19,21,23 165:3 166:4,5 167:4,12,19 170:1,19,20 172:20 177:9 177:14,22 178:12,17 186:22 190:11 190:13,25 191:11,19 198:17 203:9 204:25 206:7 206:18 207:12 207:12,14 209:23 210:8 211:1 213:1 214:1,13,18 215:17,22	219:5,7,10,11 219:22 220:8 220:12,16,21 222:14 229:23 230:11 231:10 231:13,18,21 232:10,18 233:1 <b>crushed</b> 127:2 129:6 135:24 146:6 218:3 221:17 <b>crushing</b> 219:17 <b>cs</b> 237:19 <b>curb</b> 127:25 128:1 185:14 <b>curious</b> 68:4 77:15 105:20 <b>current</b> 12:21 12:25 13:2 50:9 74:2,4 231:12 <b>currently</b> 48:25 49:10,20 50:13 <b>curriculum</b> 3:13 <b>cursor</b> 86:8 <b>cut</b> 141:11 <b>cv</b> 1:8 12:19,22 13:1,3,9,14 <b>d</b> <b>d</b> 3:1 33:7 221:25
---	--	---	---

**[damage - depiction]**

Page 16

<b>damage</b> 9:2 27:4,10 78:3,8 78:12,25 94:24 94:25 117:18 117:19,20 118:21 133:17 143:4 144:1,10 144:16 146:11 156:11 207:10 208:4 213:7 217:21 <b>damaged</b> 27:6 79:14 86:18 140:19 142:5 217:23 222:24 222:25 223:5 <b>danger</b> 34:3 <b>data</b> 6:18 8:5 9:2,7,7,10 19:24 20:18 23:6 31:20 33:18,24 60:12 93:23 106:24 107:4 108:5 127:15 131:16 152:19,20 154:1 155:2,6 162:16 169:17 174:23 176:18 180:17 188:16 190:3 191:13 191:18 192:17 192:18 199:2 199:18 205:24 212:7 219:22	219:24 221:1 225:14 229:16 <b>database</b> 179:18,19 180:4 209:17 210:6 <b>date</b> 62:4,7 67:17 71:9,19 72:5,6,18 77:9 89:21 107:1 166:11 207:24 235:2 237:3 <b>dated</b> 12:21 <b>daubert</b> 165:12 <b>day</b> 14:9 15:13 26:3 41:2,6 55:24 56:21 65:1,7 69:20 71:23,24 72:2 72:3,6,11,13 80:8 82:10 171:22 230:6 231:3 235:21 239:21 <b>days</b> 237:3 <b>de</b> 2:7 211:12 <b>dead</b> 215:15 <b>deal</b> 46:2 <b>dealing</b> 116:20 <b>debate</b> 38:21 <b>debating</b> 38:25 <b>decaturn</b> 2:9 <b>deceased</b> 1:6 <b>deceleration</b> 92:5,6	<b>december</b> 51:13 52:1,5 53:22 55:10 <b>decimal</b> 226:16 <b>decision</b> 40:7 <b>decisions</b> 31:23 31:24 <b>deep</b> 75:5 <b>default</b> 22:15 25:10 115:8 175:14,16,18 180:11,19 190:18 193:9 <b>defaults</b> 22:9 <b>defeated</b> 26:22 36:18 <b>defend</b> 150:12 150:19 <b>defendant</b> 1:10 2:11 3:8 4:19 <b>defending</b> 136:7 <b>defense</b> 46:16 46:18,24 47:17 <b>deference</b> 29:24 <b>define</b> 93:13 94:11 167:21 196:9 <b>definitely</b> 72:9 93:3 186:15,16 232:22 <b>definition</b> 93:19	<b>deflection</b> 142:13,15 <b>deformation</b> 132:21 135:12 135:17 140:8 <b>deformed</b> 79:6 142:22,23 223:4 <b>degree</b> 211:10 <b>delta</b> 17:9 22:6 22:17 25:6,8 25:15 90:12,16 90:16,18,20,22 91:7,7,9 108:8 108:12 110:22 110:24 111:14 111:18 115:2 118:2 152:14 152:15 155:24 174:21 <b>demand</b> 97:6 <b>dent</b> 218:1 <b>dependent</b> 35:25 36:2 170:12 <b>depending</b> 21:20 67:1 94:3 123:20 162:9 175:6 232:13 <b>depends</b> 172:8 196:19 <b>depiction</b> 117:18
---	--	--	---

[deploy - difficult]

Page 17

<b>deploy</b> 92:1,15 107:14,18 <b>deployed</b> 74:6 <b>deployment</b> 91:22 92:4 107:13 <b>depo's</b> 68:18 <b>deponent</b> 149:3 235:8,15 237:2 237:6,6,7,9,15 <b>deposition</b> 1:13 3:11 4:7 5:12 5:15,18 10:16 10:20 12:14 43:10,16,20,24 44:2,19 46:12 50:3,18,19,22 73:15 74:12 75:14 117:6 139:6,18 149:3 225:13 233:10 233:12 235:2,2 235:13 236:11 238:11,12 <b>depositions</b> 183:6 <b>depth</b> 207:14 <b>derive</b> 152:20 204:21 208:21 <b>derived</b> 156:11 204:15 205:20 <b>describe</b> 16:9 34:14 75:2 79:7 94:23 152:2	<b>described</b> 30:17 39:5 45:18 96:20 <b>describing</b> 37:19 <b>description</b> 95:2 <b>design</b> 34:24 <b>designed</b> 35:4 131:14 158:25 159:4 161:9,11 168:21 169:22 <b>designing</b> 133:15 <b>desire</b> 238:10 <b>detail</b> 18:3 37:16 60:21 <b>determination</b> 230:4 <b>determine</b> 25:3 41:10 53:4,8 58:17 94:24 105:21 130:4 130:18 133:4 139:1 141:24 147:23 148:1 156:23 160:7 164:7 182:23 188:17 211:10 216:9 <b>determined</b> 57:25 100:8 105:24 140:13 181:18 216:23 230:8 234:14	<b>determining</b> 20:15 40:16 115:4 <b>develop</b> 158:10 171:5 <b>developing</b> 133:25 <b>development</b> 28:4 <b>deviation</b> 211:13,15 <b>device</b> 56:10 <b>devin</b> 2:5 4:12 4:17 <b>diagram</b> 61:15 61:16 212:17 <b>diagrams</b> 59:1 <b>dial</b> 2:14 <b>diameter</b> 99:6 99:9 <b>difference</b> 27:23 59:5 76:12,13 90:15 91:1,6 96:3,16 97:21 100:8 118:2 120:8 128:17 158:5 178:12 186:2 202:15 213:18 220:25 222:22 224:17,25 225:23 227:19 227:20,23 228:1,5	<b>differences</b> 87:6 202:3 204:10 <b>different</b> 14:20 16:14 18:9 19:18 20:8 21:6 24:6,7 32:1 37:4 46:7 73:9 89:20 93:7 94:4,6,8 96:5,10,23 97:11,12,13 101:5 114:10 114:15,17 119:19 131:4 134:3 138:3 151:20,21,25 152:22 163:15 171:14,21 172:24 173:7 175:9 177:23 182:14 186:7 192:8 202:6 205:3 206:3 209:24 212:2,7 212:14,23 217:21 <b>differentiate</b> 67:3,5 <b>differentiates</b> 27:15 <b>differently</b> 175:8 <b>difficult</b> 199:25
---	--	---	--



[dig - e]

Page 18

<b>dig</b> 75:5 <b>digital</b> 6:3,22 7:22 72:21 74:23 <b>digitally</b> 6:25 <b>direct</b> 234:14 <b>direction</b> 200:2 211:13 235:12 <b>directly</b> 55:5 <b>disagree</b> 30:2 93:20 145:7 197:20 <b>disagreeing</b> 196:4 <b>disclosure</b> 234:5 236:1 <b>disclosures</b> 234:1,2,3,15 <b>discount</b> 234:19 236:13 <b>discounts</b> 156:17 234:18 236:12 <b>discuss</b> 218:16 <b>discussed</b> 95:3 194:21 <b>discussing</b> 203:14 221:4 <b>discussion</b> 108:14 109:24 <b>dislodge</b> 79:4 <b>displacement</b> 129:7 <b>disqualificati...</b> 234:6	<b>disqualify</b> 234:12 <b>distance</b> 140:3 220:11 <b>distinction</b> 34:8 37:17 <b>distort</b> 162:19 <b>distorted</b> 168:7 <b>distribution</b> 127:20 128:4 181:23 184:20 <b>district</b> 1:1,1 <b>division</b> 1:2 <b>doctor's</b> 134:8 <b>document</b> 6:17 6:18,21 66:10 75:2 84:15 130:1 213:6,8 <b>documentation</b> 58:11 59:22 62:21 63:4 <b>documented</b> 69:23 76:18 84:16 106:20 <b>documents</b> 3:21 77:15 230:10 <b>doing</b> 7:9 8:11 16:6 17:20 21:13 28:17 32:19 34:6 54:23 61:14 101:1 102:2 112:16 128:16 133:2,15	143:12 148:8 155:25 158:3,8 159:15,21 160:2 162:21 194:3 201:20 207:9 210:8,15 212:5 228:11 230:18 <b>door</b> 29:7 97:4 <b>download</b> 25:21 56:21,25 57:3 92:8,10 93:22 154:25 155:1,3 193:3 193:16,18 <b>draw</b> 61:16 147:3 <b>drawing</b> 60:8,9 60:9 61:6,10 101:25 105:1 129:2 <b>drawings</b> 60:18 69:16,16 101:17 104:17 104:25 121:12 129:1 200:10 <b>drawn</b> 221:13 <b>drive</b> 35:6 65:7 <b>driver</b> 9:9 104:9 194:23 <b>driver's</b> 183:4 194:19 <b>drives</b> 78:6 <b>driving</b> 35:8	<b>dropped</b> 78:16 <b>drove</b> 80:10 <b>duces</b> 3:11 <b>due</b> 237:3 <b>duly</b> 5:2 235:9 <b>dumb</b> 208:12 <b>dumbest</b> 101:20 <b>dutifully</b> 36:5 <b>dymesh</b> 42:15 42:19 156:4 157:1,16 158:11 161:20 161:20 162:4 162:19 163:1 <b>dynam</b> 106:5 <b>dynamic</b> 105:7 105:18,21 106:6,22 147:2 147:6,9,23 163:17 <b>dynamically</b> 143:8 144:18 147:10 <b>dynamics</b> 13:17 120:3 130:25 158:7 160:18 161:21 164:10 165:14 169:25 210:22 210:23
			<b>e</b>
			<b>e</b> 3:1,5 56:9 65:18 235:1,1 237:18 238:8,9

<b>earlier</b> 33:16 34:15 87:13 101:11 107:21 114:12 119:23 123:5 144:5 156:9 157:10 181:17 224:13 226:16 230:13 231:4 <b>early</b> 57:22 225:17 <b>easier</b> 51:6 73:19 126:16 <b>easiest</b> 148:6 <b>eastern</b> 4:6 <b>easy</b> 74:17 126:21 154:13 191:15 <b>eating</b> 15:17 <b>economies</b> 97:10 <b>edc</b> 13:19 <b>edcrash</b> 15:12 <b>edr</b> 23:5 90:11 <b>edsmac</b> 15:12 120:3 152:11 <b>education</b> 13:8 <b>effect</b> 135:17 181:7 185:2,5 228:15,15 <b>effective</b> 32:11 112:23 218:19 220:25 225:6 <b>effectively</b> 23:7 108:13 134:24	137:23 162:11 211:18 219:15 224:11 226:7 229:7 231:21 <b>efficient</b> 22:8 <b>eight</b> 64:19 65:1 <b>either</b> 87:8 88:11 143:8 145:14 160:7 162:21 182:15 183:4 211:11 211:13,15 212:12,12 <b>elasticity</b> 178:21 <b>electronic</b> 5:20 5:23 6:1,3,9,12 8:14 19:24 92:13 <b>electronically</b> 3:6 237:8 <b>element</b> 126:17 163:13 <b>elephant</b> 15:17 <b>elevation</b> 101:8 122:10 126:12 132:6 161:12 214:25 215:3 215:14 <b>elevations</b> 131:15 <b>elliott</b> 198:23 <b>elliott's</b> 183:13	<b>elongated</b> 79:6 <b>emblem</b> 145:24 <b>employed</b> 171:5 <b>employee</b> 235:17,19 <b>endeavor</b> 34:2 <b>ended</b> 93:25 169:9 <b>ends</b> 93:23 213:23 214:14 220:13 <b>energy</b> 33:8 207:11,15,16 <b>enforcement</b> 107:1 <b>engaged</b> 121:18 124:14 <b>engagement</b> 103:20 105:23 105:24 123:9 <b>engine</b> 120:3 <b>engineer</b> 15:7 16:6 38:16 52:14,15,20,23 54:7 55:3 65:15 120:21 121:24 127:18 <b>engineering</b> 11:11 13:17 16:22 23:1 53:24 54:6,20 55:11 66:18 73:8 130:3,24 158:7 160:18	161:20 163:17 165:14 169:25 177:3,12 187:6 188:15 190:1 207:20 210:22 210:23 225:18 227:6 <b>engineers</b> 14:21 52:11,25 65:14 115:22 208:24 <b>enter</b> 8:10,16 8:19 171:25 186:4 <b>entered</b> 238:11 <b>entire</b> 158:16 180:9 <b>entitled</b> 74:24 77:21 90:10 116:10 <b>entries</b> 53:23 66:20 <b>entry</b> 54:10 174:10,12 <b>environment</b> 9:10 30:9 190:5,7 <b>equations</b> 22:11 111:23 113:21 <b>errata</b> 237:3,7 237:8,9,11,13 237:14,17 238:1,16
---	--	---	--

[error - exhibit]

Page 20

<b>error</b> 92:9,13 107:22 211:10 212:12 <b>escape</b> 26:23 27:4 62:18 77:2,6,23,23 78:13 79:23 80:8 82:11,12 87:24,24 92:3 111:7,12,14,19 118:13 120:16 121:14 122:13 123:15,18 125:2 127:1,21 128:9 129:4 130:19 131:6 131:18 140:7 140:23,25 141:6 145:19 145:23 146:2 146:17,24 147:3,25 149:12 150:24 151:5 152:17 156:20 171:7 175:2,4 177:7 180:4 181:22 183:13 184:7 184:21 187:8 187:17 188:11 193:25 206:19 207:3 208:19 209:17,25 210:13 216:4 216:23 217:11	217:13,18 222:13,15,21 222:24,25 223:1,6,8 229:24 230:5 231:19,22 232:11 <b>escape's</b> 80:3 151:12 <b>escapes</b> 131:1 <b>especially</b> 45:20 <b>esq</b> 237:1 <b>esquire</b> 2:4,5 2:12 <b>essay</b> 130:21 <b>essence</b> 98:6 <b>essentially</b> 22:18 191:16 204:17,18 <b>establish</b> 147:17 167:17 211:14 <b>establishing</b> 211:24 231:3 <b>estate</b> 1:5 <b>estimate</b> 46:23 64:23 65:2 116:14 120:8 139:1 184:3 191:3 <b>estimating</b> 82:20 <b>ethics</b> 234:13	<b>euler</b> 21:8 <b>evaluate</b> 173:2 <b>event</b> 9:7 93:14 93:21,22,23,25 107:17,20 136:13,15,17 136:19 137:1,4 137:6,12 <b>events</b> 108:1 197:21 <b>eventually</b> 204:17 <b>everybody</b> 128:20 133:25 188:24 <b>everybody's</b> 146:6 <b>evidence</b> 19:8 19:13,19 21:17 29:2,16 31:14 33:25 124:15 165:4,10 194:18 235:15 <b>exact</b> 6:17 47:1 58:6 65:5 81:21 96:8 104:9 109:13 175:7 185:7 186:19 192:1 196:13 204:8 223:1 <b>exactly</b> 17:5 24:18 56:6,21 64:18 65:3 89:11 105:20	106:10 142:12 147:15 157:20 159:4 168:10 206:13,24 <b>examination</b> 3:2 5:4 213:19 <b>examined</b> 5:2 <b>example</b> 54:4 <b>examples</b> 35:5 <b>except</b> 234:8 <b>exclude</b> 57:8 <b>excluded</b> 164:24 <b>exclusively</b> 236:8 <b>excuse</b> 62:6 157:6 165:8 <b>exemplar</b> 58:22 59:19 61:25 62:1,5,17,17 77:2,3,5,13 79:18,23 94:23 95:6 97:16 100:9,11,13,18 101:24 102:5 110:4 121:1 142:3 171:6 202:2,5,18,19 203:6 222:4,25 225:1,24 227:11,15,25 <b>exemplars</b> 57:24 <b>exhibit</b> 3:7,8,13 3:14,17,18,19
---	---	--	---

3:21,23 10:16 10:19,22 11:5 12:14,19 43:7 43:10 50:1,3,6 50:21,22 51:2 73:13,15 75:12 75:14 117:6 201:17,20 <b>exhibits</b> 3:6 234:21,22,23 236:6,7 <b>exists</b> 53:9 <b>exit</b> 155:5 174:10,12,20 176:16 <b>expect</b> 36:25 37:1,24 39:8 70:2 115:20 150:5,9 166:23 175:12 196:16 <b>expected</b> 17:5 36:24 115:10 115:12 193:13 193:14 <b>experience</b> 13:7 46:10 121:4 150:6,10 230:17 <b>experienced</b> 40:17 220:8 <b>experimenting</b> 16:3 <b>expert</b> 13:5 43:19 85:12	<b>expertise</b> 84:25 85:10 176:1 194:24 <b>expires</b> 239:25 <b>explain</b> 57:18 107:12 127:8 130:2 156:5,6 173:4 207:4 <b>explained</b> 148:13 <b>explanation</b> 24:22 87:2 92:14 148:6 154:9 156:7 228:6,9,10 <b>exploded</b> 26:16 217:2,22 <b>explore</b> 18:8 164:17 <b>exploring</b> 164:5 <b>express</b> 129:21 <b>expressed</b> 129:25 130:17 207:7 <b>expressing</b> 132:12 <b>extends</b> 131:20 <b>extent</b> 141:25 147:17 148:1 <b>extra</b> 182:18 <b>extreme</b> 124:2 196:6,9,12	<b>f</b> <b>f</b> 56:9 232:4 235:1 <b>f2</b> 100:9 <b>f250</b> 27:17 37:19,21 40:19 40:21 74:6 85:25 86:1 88:22 89:2 90:11 92:1 95:6 96:1,1,18 99:15 100:9,10 100:11,13,25 108:19 116:15 116:24 117:4 117:23 118:24 119:1 122:12 125:1,1 128:10 130:15,16 137:23 138:2 140:5 141:5 145:25 147:23 148:2 150:24 151:11 153:20 154:1 155:3 161:5 171:6 177:4,8 179:19 179:23 183:23 187:6 188:7,14 190:2 202:7,16 202:23 206:18 207:2,5,6,18 209:23 224:19 227:16 231:15 231:18,19	232:1,8 <b>fabric</b> 194:1 <b>faced</b> 165:25 <b>facility</b> 237:17 <b>fact</b> 38:17 76:23 78:7 184:19 227:25 <b>factor</b> 121:11 122:20 126:23 133:3 135:15 187:2 206:13 <b>factoring</b> 145:1 <b>factors</b> 28:10 121:6 <b>factory</b> 138:2 <b>facts</b> 29:2 45:4 <b>fair</b> 22:1 25:7 39:9 46:2 50:15 51:14 53:20 55:9 70:4 95:2 115:13 116:16 116:25 133:6 139:20 195:3 196:24 220:9 232:12 <b>fairly</b> 36:8 160:24 <b>falls</b> 36:23 <b>far</b> 14:24 35:21 62:8 131:24 135:25 136:11 137:25 140:6 140:10 142:5 142:17,24
--	---	---	---

[far - fooled]

Page 22

143:13,13 159:7 169:19 170:18 196:2 214:4,18 219:9 222:20 229:4 <b>farther</b> 103:1,6 <b>fascia</b> 121:16 <b>fashion</b> 46:2 161:23 <b>fast</b> 10:21 11:22 63:10 108:24 109:3 <b>faster</b> 76:1 <b>fault</b> 92:12 <b>february</b> 55:25 56:23 58:13 61:4 76:18,22 80:4 82:3 84:10 235:21 <b>federal</b> 238:8 <b>fee</b> 3:17 50:5,9 50:18 <b>feel</b> 27:22 28:6 30:18,24 166:12 211:23 <b>fees</b> 50:10,11 50:13 <b>feet</b> 97:2 98:11 101:7,7 118:1 129:20 148:10 148:19 170:19 170:19,19 186:22 202:10 202:11 203:4 211:1,2 215:4	219:3 224:10 224:20,22 225:1,9,10,24 226:3,5,18,19 227:12 <b>field</b> 28:21 80:10 <b>figure</b> 10:9 90:7 102:19 103:19 108:7 <b>figured</b> 206:12 <b>file</b> 5:13 6:4,23 7:1,2,3,4,21 8:3 9:5 11:13 13:3 51:12 62:21 63:7 66:18 72:22 73:1 101:4 110:13 113:2,6 128:15 128:22 149:8 199:13 200:15 237:12 <b>filed</b> 237:14 <b>files</b> 9:8 74:24 <b>filing</b> 8:14 71:25 <b>fill</b> 20:12 21:12 237:7,8 <b>fillers</b> 133:18 <b>final</b> 109:8 154:8 185:5 192:25 205:21 <b>financial</b> 234:6 236:13	<b>financially</b> 235:20 <b>find</b> 6:12 7:12 8:13 37:14 59:5,12 81:16 101:4 117:9 148:23 179:20 183:2 192:13 225:19 231:2,9 232:2 <b>fine</b> 12:9 69:24 72:9 87:9 91:16 113:18 137:8 182:4 <b>finish</b> 47:18 63:18 67:23 238:16 <b>finished</b> 171:2 223:11 <b>finite</b> 163:13 <b>firm</b> 47:24,25 48:14,14 81:24 234:1,15 236:1 <b>first</b> 5:2 16:22 26:6,14 27:25 28:22 29:5 34:16,17 41:19 51:8,15 57:11 64:10,14 66:6 69:7,10 86:1 100:17 115:9 133:12 137:22 154:2 160:9 168:7 172:15 218:11	<b>fit</b> 32:14 140:15 140:18,20 142:8 <b>fitting</b> 142:20 <b>five</b> 65:4 113:13 199:21 201:3 <b>fix</b> 11:21 103:16 <b>fl</b> 4:1 <b>flashing</b> 122:25 <b>flat</b> 17:16 190:8 218:3 221:12 <b>flattened</b> 145:11 <b>flipped</b> 222:6 <b>flipping</b> 192:4 <b>floating</b> 88:11 <b>floats</b> 94:9 <b>florida</b> 1:15 <b>fluke</b> 174:25 <b>flush</b> 123:6 <b>focused</b> 44:18 44:20 197:8 <b>follow</b> 15:10 27:1 195:10 201:13 <b>followed</b> 126:23 210:20 <b>following</b> 26:24 118:7 234:1,3 238:6 <b>follows</b> 5:2 <b>fooled</b> 59:8,9 59:10
---	--	---	--

[foolish - generating]

Page 23

<b>foolish</b> 93:8 <b>foot</b> 85:1,2,4,17 104:8,8 105:7 105:18,21 169:21 <b>force</b> 207:9,15 <b>forces</b> 122:6 123:6 150:13 156:16,20,22 156:23 <b>ford</b> 62:17 77:2 77:6 79:23 80:12 96:1,1 118:24 119:1 122:12 145:24 147:12 171:7 175:2,4 183:13 189:11,17,22 189:24 207:3 <b>foregoing</b> 235:6 236:3 <b>forget</b> 101:9 <b>forgot</b> 88:18 104:3 <b>forgotten</b> 114:1 <b>form</b> 27:10 29:1 46:2 48:2 134:17 161:4 161:23 167:13 168:5 200:6 203:16 238:10 238:14 <b>formal</b> 51:21 <b>formally</b> 75:7	<b>format</b> 5:21,21 5:22,23 7:22 <b>former</b> 47:25 <b>forms</b> 234:5 <b>formula</b> 106:8 <b>formulas</b> 152:6 210:17 <b>formulating</b> 198:9 <b>forth</b> 76:15 121:2 <b>forums</b> 14:20 14:21 <b>forward</b> 10:21 61:24 103:1,6 129:6 135:21 140:11 142:5 146:10,23 150:4,8 184:23 185:10 223:7 237:12 <b>found</b> 139:13 217:12 232:3 <b>foundation</b> 69:23 110:16 <b>foundational</b> 60:22 <b>four</b> 37:4 48:8 48:11 <b>fourth</b> 226:2 <b>frame</b> 33:8 36:3,3 78:23 78:24 79:10,11 137:25 138:4 138:20 140:2,3	157:17 162:13 <b>fraught</b> 34:2,2 <b>fricke</b> 41:17 <b>friction</b> 190:15 <b>fries</b> 56:8 58:13 58:15 61:3 <b>front</b> 11:8 58:2 73:18 74:15 83:11 84:4 85:2,5,17 127:21 128:2 130:15,16 131:11 140:21 143:18 146:9 156:14,18,21 158:16 181:23 182:8,16,17,19 182:21,22,24 184:12,20 187:5 193:25 194:23 207:2,6 207:25 214:5 228:12,16,22 229:2,10,19 <b>frontal</b> 179:24 179:25 <b>frontals</b> 187:18 187:22 <b>full</b> 141:25 144:25 148:1 <b>fully</b> 58:2 104:24 107:19 145:8 195:10 <b>fundamental</b> 169:24 212:7	<b>fundamentally</b> 152:19 161:9 <b>further</b> 105:4 170:24 235:16 236:5
			<b>g</b>
			<b>g</b> 1:13 3:12,14 5:1 235:2 237:2 239:19 <b>g's</b> 150:23 151:6 <b>gainsville</b> 1:2 <b>gate</b> 217:5 <b>gears</b> 67:24 <b>general</b> 16:13 46:10 197:19 <b>generalization</b> 198:3 <b>generally</b> 15:23 15:25 130:16 188:25 <b>generate</b> 26:10 72:14 213:8 <b>generated</b> 7:16 8:5,7 71:2 180:8 208:20 209:16 210:9 213:9,17 221:18,24 230:1 <b>generates</b> 7:17 190:19 <b>generating</b> 176:7

[generic - good]

Page 24

<b>generic</b> 90:18 109:15 185:13	169:21 174:20 187:22 188:21	79:8 81:2 84:13 89:5,8	61:18,19,23 62:13,14 75:24
<b>generically</b> 90:19	189:17 192:1 194:22 197:25	92:16,23 97:10 99:5,21 100:24	85:12 87:23 92:6 93:7
<b>geometric</b> 85:18 141:2	198:3,5,21,23 200:4 214:19	101:3 102:5 104:3 107:23	100:16 102:1,3 102:3,5 103:4
<b>geometry</b> 9:8 62:14 142:3	215:21 217:19 218:24 232:6	112:21,21 118:18 121:19	109:1,2,3 120:23 122:6,8
155:15 156:25 157:3 215:16 215:21	<b>given</b> 35:5 37:10 43:15 82:9 86:22	122:2 134:19 137:8 149:24 157:7 159:6	122:8 124:24 125:2,18,22 126:6,6,7
<b>george</b> 4:8	132:23 229:16	168:22 177:2,4	131:18 132:12
<b>georgia</b> 1:1 2:9 2:17 198:7	235:15 238:12	182:2 183:7	133:3,23
234:3,9 235:4 236:3,8 237:18	<b>gives</b> 130:22 151:25 155:11 157:13 207:24	186:12 189:6 195:25 212:2 217:17 219:18	144:22 148:24 149:1 150:20 156:19,21,23
<b>getting</b> 12:8 44:1 53:14	213:11 214:21 218:12,17	220:22 221:10 223:14 225:14	156:25 162:16 163:11 166:11
64:22 68:23 81:24 84:17	<b>giving</b> 13:9 63:20 156:2	225:21 229:2 230:9 231:2	166:16 168:10 170:23 185:6
97:23 109:13 121:21 142:12	157:23	232:17	185:10 186:1,3
143:25 147:16 165:25 167:9	<b>glad</b> 93:5 208:13	<b>goes</b> 35:7 43:12 47:7 54:20	187:3 190:18 192:7 207:25
173:12 177:20 218:23	<b>glean</b> 21:3	78:9 170:3	211:5 214:19
<b>giant</b> 122:25	<b>glitches</b> 12:10	186:13	216:6 218:10
<b>give</b> 8:17 10:9 21:18 29:23	<b>go</b> 9:19 11:21 13:25 14:21	<b>going</b> 10:18 12:5,9,18 15:6	218:24 219:18 219:18,19
32:20 41:13 46:10 47:25	15:9 16:1,19 18:2 24:14	15:18 16:4,15 27:18 29:6	220:8,11 221:5 223:12 225:10
59:19 73:3 77:8 85:15,22	30:13 35:6 36:5 39:24	32:3,7,15,17 35:2,10 38:22	227:17 229:17 231:8,10,12
105:3 106:1 140:2 164:20	41:20 54:21 55:23 63:7,20	40:14 42:3 52:14,15 54:23	<b>good</b> 5:8 21:23 29:9 35:13,23
	67:23 75:25 76:7,10 77:14	55:15 56:13 57:15 60:11,23	41:20 54:3 55:17 113:25



[good - head]

Page 25

122:7 132:3 133:15 168:25 170:7 171:3 173:8 180:24 229:15,15 <b>google</b> 53:14 61:21 <b>gotcha</b> 25:20 79:5 95:24 98:3 99:1,12 107:11 115:23 123:11 124:16 193:7 206:2 216:5 218:22 223:9 230:14 <b>gotten</b> 59:1 189:21 <b>government</b> 188:19,21 207:21 <b>grab</b> 135:1 <b>graph</b> 213:6 <b>graphical</b> 214:22 <b>gravity</b> 181:3,5 184:22 <b>gray</b> 94:2 149:18 <b>great</b> 10:15 56:19 60:16 63:23,25 71:13 74:20 93:5 <b>green</b> 206:16 <b>greetings</b> 237:5	<b>gross</b> 96:4 <b>ground</b> 86:12 86:13,16 87:3 215:5 226:24 226:25 <b>group</b> 48:18 76:17 196:21 <b>grouped</b> 48:18 <b>guess</b> 9:12 16:3 30:7 37:16 43:8 48:8,11 53:6 56:21 64:4 80:15 98:14 103:22 106:12,25 108:18 112:14 130:4 138:22 139:15 164:15 168:12 185:13 192:25 197:9 202:4 222:13 <b>guidance</b> 22:13 156:2 <b>gunn</b> 2:14 <b>guy</b> 45:4 171:21 <b>guys</b> 39:17 61:7 106:18 177:20 182:1 192:25 193:12,24 <b>h</b> <b>h</b> 2:12 3:5 165:13 <b>half</b> 13:15 55:16,17 86:2	87:2 98:13,17 98:21 105:7,18 105:21 224:7 224:10 225:11 227:15,25 228:4 229:10 <b>hand</b> 4:23 21:7 210:21 <b>handle</b> 29:17 29:18 34:13 36:12 37:2 47:15 <b>handled</b> 236:7 <b>hands</b> 162:3 <b>handwriting</b> 202:2 <b>hang</b> 78:16 <b>hanging</b> 36:22 78:17 <b>happen</b> 6:10 20:7 33:12 45:19 46:4 91:2 102:15 118:14 119:25 128:22 168:10 172:6 <b>happened</b> 18:5 18:19 31:7 38:3,6,20 45:5 48:19 56:17 68:22 96:6,25 115:21 118:16 127:17,18 137:16	<b>happening</b> 163:9,10 <b>happens</b> 17:2 <b>happy</b> 34:5 69:22 81:25 94:11,19 <b>hard</b> 7:16 21:5 21:7 44:8 63:14 71:2 73:20 87:17,18 <b>hatch</b> 26:21 83:11,11 119:24 121:14 121:22 122:15 127:2,6,10 129:3,5,8,20 131:6 133:17 143:17 144:2,2 144:10,11 146:8,11,19 147:17,22 148:11 216:3 219:23 220:8 220:12,17 <b>hatches</b> 147:19 <b>head</b> 36:17 44:8 49:1 67:15 70:3 81:6 84:20,21 84:24 85:8 103:4 104:6 145:25 179:8 180:2 196:4 224:4 232:24
---	---	--	---



<b>headrest</b> 85:3 85:16 102:17 102:21 103:4,5 147:13 <b>hear</b> 8:2 12:6 30:12 49:5 141:10,11,14 156:7 167:6 205:9 208:13 220:4 <b>heard</b> 20:20 90:17 177:24 178:6 198:2 220:3 <b>hearing</b> 144:8 <b>height</b> 30:22 36:9 95:25 99:2 100:8 121:5 123:16 131:23,24 132:20 133:5 157:24 197:11 197:16,17 202:12 215:7,9 215:10 216:9 216:14,22,25 217:3,7,8,20,20 218:2,6,15,19 218:19 219:2 224:18 225:23 226:22,25 227:10 228:7 <b>heights</b> 120:25 121:8 200:12 218:13,25	219:6 <b>held</b> 136:4 <b>help</b> 47:11 60:21 65:9 75:4 77:18 124:13 152:14 199:2,25 200:1 203:10 <b>helped</b> 122:13 <b>helpful</b> 20:2,9 85:7 112:6 <b>helping</b> 146:13 150:18 181:1 <b>helps</b> 54:13 167:21 207:11 <b>hfe</b> 35:24 <b>high</b> 33:15 36:17 114:13 <b>higher</b> 125:9 172:4 216:7 217:4 219:23 228:22 229:10 232:25 <b>highlighted</b> 106:16 128:18 130:8 206:15 208:6,8 209:8 209:9 <b>highly</b> 232:21 <b>hill</b> 2:12 3:3 4:11,11,14,18 4:18 5:5,7 8:1 8:4,18 10:17 11:23 12:4,10 12:15 30:6	43:11 48:4 49:24 50:4,21 50:23 70:9,12 70:18,19 73:11 73:16 75:11,15 99:18,20 100:4 105:11,14 113:12,17 114:5 115:24 116:7 117:7 134:18 141:16 141:17,19 167:7,8,16 168:1 170:10 173:11,15,22 173:23 174:14 174:17 177:19 178:8,11 197:22 199:20 199:23 200:19 200:25 201:10 201:11,24,25 203:18,22,25 208:17 223:14 223:21 224:1 224:16 233:3 <b>hinges</b> 146:18 147:21,21,22 <b>historical</b> 230:10 <b>history</b> 9:3 50:12 <b>hit</b> 8:13 17:22 17:23 19:14,16 23:24 24:5	28:1 45:1,7 84:24 85:8,8 92:2 119:24 120:7,15 122:12 125:6 126:7,15 137:2 137:6 146:19 161:12,19 175:6,8,8 178:22 186:12 192:7,9 193:6 215:25 216:16 218:11 <b>hits</b> 17:1 125:15 <b>hitting</b> 120:16 <b>hmm</b> 30:3 <b>ho</b> 41:5 168:16 <b>hold</b> 43:1 74:20 82:22 83:5 121:21 134:16 <b>holding</b> 47:1 126:11 <b>hole</b> 186:12 <b>holes</b> 79:5,14 146:17,20 <b>honestly</b> 38:15 <b>hood</b> 146:17 147:23 <b>hooks</b> 121:13 121:15 122:20 123:4,13,16 124:6,19 125:19,21 126:2,6,19
--	--	--	--

[hooks - import]

Page 27

146:12 217:4 <b>hope</b> 54:13 116:9 149:1 209:4 <b>hopefully</b> 10:10 10:21 75:25 141:17 173:12 <b>hoping</b> 59:24 <b>hour</b> 56:2 76:4 111:13,22 115:2 168:18 196:11,24 207:25 <b>hours</b> 55:10 64:4,19 65:1 <b>house</b> 61:20 <b>hudgets</b> 2:13 <b>huge</b> 216:11 <b>hum</b> 41:5 168:16 <b>humidity</b> 171:21,23 <b>hundred</b> 184:5 196:11,24 <b>hunter</b> 183:12 <b>hve</b> 6:4 7:2,3,4 7:21 8:3,6 10:4 13:16,19,22 14:9,15 15:20 16:10 18:4,8 18:10,15,18 19:9,17 20:2,6 20:9,12,13,17 20:22 21:2,18 26:1,6,14,25	27:5,12,15,16 27:19,25 28:15 28:22 29:6,9 29:15,25 30:1 30:10,18,25 31:5,16,23,24 33:11 34:11 35:12,24 37:8 37:23 38:2,5 38:13,17,19 39:1,4,5,19,22 39:24 40:6,14 41:10,21 42:4 42:11 66:24 67:6,8,12,14 70:25 98:20,22 99:2 104:12 114:7,24,24 115:3,12,16 116:21 128:5 153:15 155:4 155:12 163:19 163:22 164:15 164:20,23 165:3,10 166:4 167:12,23 168:19 173:25 174:3 176:2 177:14 179:3 179:19 181:22 181:25 185:8 190:4,7 191:9 191:22,23 192:5,11,14,15 202:22 203:15	204:16 208:20 209:12,15,24 210:3,10 213:7 213:8,24 214:19 215:12 218:5,24 219:22 220:20 221:19,20 230:1,3,7 232:4 <b>hve's</b> 15:11 26:24 <b>hves</b> 33:19 <b>hypothetical</b> 18:8 27:20 28:24 31:3,8 37:7 40:18 41:11 116:15 116:24 120:19 121:9 125:11 153:19 166:6 167:19 172:6 197:15 199:5	<b>image</b> 59:13 <b>images</b> 59:5,12 <b>imagined</b> 34:23 <b>imaging</b> 106:24 <b>imbalance</b> 47:15 <b>img</b> 149:6 <b>immovable</b> 23:23 <b>impact</b> 17:8 30:23 34:9 36:4 90:12,16 90:20 91:7 94:11 110:23 110:24 111:6 111:11 120:19 123:6 134:12 136:8 137:13 155:5,21 158:20 174:10 184:23 231:17 <b>impacted</b> 84:19 84:21 120:10 123:17 135:13 144:22 147:22 194:19,23 216:23 <b>impacting</b> 144:25 <b>impacts</b> 16:20 45:24 <b>impartiality</b> 234:13 <b>import</b> 61:16
		<b>i</b>	
		<b>icing</b> 125:22 <b>idea</b> 63:24 <b>identified</b> 149:10 201:16 <b>identify</b> 4:9 <b>identifying</b> 5:10 <b>illustrates</b> 119:5 <b>illustrating</b> 222:13	

[important - initial]

Page 28

<b>important</b> 92:21,22 126:13 128:19 185:8,9 197:16 200:23 217:8	106:3 127:6,8 127:10 128:18 128:25 129:2 129:11,18 137:24 138:9 138:10,12 139:22,25 140:11 146:21 146:22,23 147:1,5 184:22 185:10 198:13 198:20 199:1,8 199:9 202:3,11 217:4,18 218:2 224:7,9 225:6 225:7,9 226:2 226:6,13,14,19 226:20 228:1,5 228:16,17 229:3,7,8,20	<b>incomplete</b> 197:15 <b>incorrect</b> 133:10 <b>increase</b> 184:19 224:17 232:18 <b>increased</b> 44:25 <b>independent</b> 170:25 186:20 211:18 212:6 212:19 <b>independently</b> 23:21 114:22 <b>indexing</b> 126:11 <b>indicate</b> 51:14 51:18 52:7 71:9 80:3 <b>indicated</b> 20:21 21:22 32:9 52:4 53:6 70:23 108:16 216:22 <b>indicates</b> 52:3 167:2 <b>indicating</b> 92:13 149:21 202:5 <b>indication</b> 108:15 <b>indications</b> 58:4 <b>indirectly</b> 163:2	<b>individual</b> 23:25 40:3 53:7 58:25 96:4 175:17 176:6 <b>individually</b> 48:6 <b>individuals</b> 52:11 53:1 <b>industry</b> 95:16 166:21 188:24 <b>infer</b> 68:19 <b>influence</b> 159:17 <b>informal</b> 54:22 <b>information</b> 11:4 14:19 19:3 20:3,5 21:3 32:21 33:19 34:4 58:24 59:15 61:20 69:19 72:15 75:8 85:6 94:1 110:21 127:13 127:19 128:8,9 164:21 198:11 198:19 <b>inherent</b> 178:18 <b>initial</b> 22:19 53:10,15 103:22 174:1,8 175:2
<b>impossible</b> 121:19 124:18 195:7 <b>imprint</b> 146:7 146:11 217:10 217:14 <b>imprinted</b> 216:12 <b>imprints</b> 147:18 <b>inaudible</b> 141:4 141:5,9 145:17 203:15 <b>inch</b> 57:22,23 58:1,4,9,11 59:3,13,22 86:2,24 87:2 98:13,17,21 99:9 101:10 114:14 217:13 218:20 219:14 219:14 224:8 224:10,11,12 225:11 227:15 227:25 228:4,4 228:7 229:10 <b>inches</b> 58:3 86:14,15 87:9 97:1 98:1,17 101:7 102:8	<b>incident</b> 27:20 41:11 57:13 76:4 82:10 86:4 116:15 <b>include</b> 50:17 64:16 114:1 133:12 135:3,7 135:9 195:14 <b>included</b> 56:10 88:5 90:3 128:13 133:18 135:8 183:1 184:8 <b>including</b> 158:13		

[initially - issue]

Page 29

<b>initially</b> 37:12	142:3 194:7	<b>interrupt</b> 67:24	<b>invoiced</b> 50:25
<b>injured</b> 197:12	<b>inspections</b>	79:16 87:11	<b>invoices</b> 3:18
<b>injury</b> 85:13	56:11 64:13	177:19	50:25 51:18
<b>input</b> 15:21	193:23	<b>introductory</b>	65:23 67:6
21:23 22:5,16	<b>installed</b> 46:6	75:24	69:25
25:6 98:20	97:17	<b>intrude</b> 195:12	<b>invoicing</b> 68:5
99:3 104:11	<b>instance</b> 153:20	<b>intruding</b>	<b>involve</b> 44:5,12
111:21 114:8	<b>institute</b> 41:18	140:14	56:16 171:10
114:11 119:12	<b>intact</b> 149:13	<b>intrusion</b> 44:25	195:2,9
119:13,14,16	149:17 150:7	141:23,25	<b>involved</b> 11:10
171:11 176:15	150:17	144:9,25	16:10 19:2
177:5 181:4,5	<b>intake</b> 47:20	145:18 195:1,8	26:9 32:25
182:1,1 185:14	51:13	195:22 196:16	37:20 45:17
187:5,14,24	<b>intend</b> 58:23	200:12	53:5,8 54:4
190:22 191:17	160:19 161:21	<b>invaded</b> 143:23	57:13 62:24
192:25 193:1,4	194:22	<b>invading</b> 142:7	86:4 107:2
208:20 210:4	<b>intended</b> 36:17	<b>invalidate</b>	110:3 116:16
215:19 230:1	226:11	163:16	136:2,14
<b>inputs</b> 16:12	<b>inter</b> 175:5	<b>investigate</b>	153:21 167:20
21:25 22:4,20	192:17,18	15:10 17:14	175:17 176:6
26:12 28:24	<b>interest</b> 234:7	89:16 173:5	190:15 195:19
114:3 155:12	234:11	<b>investigated</b>	197:4
<b>inputted</b>	<b>interested</b>	45:17	<b>involvement</b>
179:21	164:4,5 190:10	<b>investigating</b>	51:15
<b>inputting</b> 176:2	190:12,13	18:10 21:4	<b>involves</b> 163:10
176:5	214:8 219:1	<b>investigation</b>	<b>involving</b> 44:6
<b>insert</b> 161:7	235:20	92:19	167:20 171:6
<b>inside</b> 123:22	<b>interlocking</b>	<b>investigator</b>	195:21
<b>inspected</b> 64:23	121:21	218:14	<b>irrelevant</b>
76:17 78:14	<b>internet</b> 59:2	<b>invoice</b> 51:8,9	190:17
84:9	184:2	55:23 57:16	<b>issuance</b> 68:13
<b>inspection</b> 56:5	<b>interpret</b> 75:4	60:4,7 61:24	<b>issue</b> 8:15
56:7,24 57:2	<b>interpreted</b>	64:1 66:5,15	11:22 37:3
58:12,17 59:18	199:15	66:17 70:2	81:16 86:25
80:4 89:5			165:21 166:14

[issue - know]

Page 30

166:17 199:17 <b>issues</b> 10:8 13:11 105:13 <b>it'll</b> 55:1,1 103:13 148:22 176:12 182:4 220:23 <b>item</b> 84:21 88:3 <b>items</b> 10:23 82:21 83:6,22 84:9 133:3 135:13 198:6 <b>iteration</b> 170:4 <b>iterative</b> 15:14 154:24,24	<b>july</b> 69:6 <b>junior</b> 14:20 16:6 52:22,22 54:7 <b>jury</b> 16:10 126:5 156:6	138:15,21 <b>kits</b> 57:19,21 58:22 59:19 <b>knew</b> 17:8,8 22:3,3 25:11 25:11,12,12,14 25:21 40:5 58:2 104:2 161:13 169:13 174:25 <b>knocked</b> 87:14 88:16 <b>know</b> 5:13 7:9 8:16 10:22 11:9 13:7 14:9 14:22 15:7,14 15:17 16:6,15 17:19 18:19 19:20,22 20:6 20:16,24 21:22 25:8,9,15 28:4 29:15 31:7,9 31:14,19 32:1 32:2,6,7,8,20 33:18,23 34:25 35:6,12,14 36:18 38:22 39:20,25 42:1 42:10 44:7 45:3,6,19,24 46:1,11 48:10 48:16,19,21,24 49:5,6 50:11 51:5 52:13 53:9,11,15,17	53:18 54:17,22 54:24 55:2,6 55:16 57:7,22 58:8 59:7 60:18,20 61:20 61:21 64:24 65:5,10 67:10 67:13,16 68:18 68:21 70:2 72:3,16 73:6 75:3,9,10 77:7 78:5 80:19,23 81:10,14 82:4 82:7 83:4,16 83:21 86:8 87:7,8 88:16 89:10,10 90:13 96:6 97:9,17 100:22 101:11 102:6,11 103:24 104:8 104:21 106:2 106:17 107:5 108:18 109:9 109:17 111:3 112:15 114:3 115:20 118:19 120:4,21 121:10,25 122:4,7,11 123:2 124:3,25 125:9,22 126:5 131:19 133:14 133:22 134:5 135:5,6,6,11,22
<b>j</b>	<b>k</b>		
<b>james</b> 56:8 <b>january</b> 1:17 4:2,5 55:19,25 235:2 <b>job</b> 55:3 60:16 69:24 93:1 133:15 <b>joke</b> 12:5 <b>jonathan</b> 2:20 <b>joshua</b> 1:4 183:15 <b>judge</b> 196:20 <b>judgment</b> 16:22 192:11 214:17 230:25 <b>judgments</b> 40:4 <b>judith</b> 1:22 235:24	<b>keep</b> 6:15 15:15 15:16,16 41:12 47:13 124:12 124:13 154:20 <b>kept</b> 7:17 <b>key</b> 7:8 <b>keystrokes</b> 16:24 17:11 <b>keystroking</b> 16:7,9 <b>kind</b> 16:10 20:6 21:15 30:10 34:13 37:22 43:25 52:4 60:10 70:20 73:5 84:17 93:16 94:2 97:10 98:10 113:14 114:12 120:13 121:23 122:25 146:6 149:18 170:6 178:23 181:21 192:3 194:15 212:16 <b>kit</b> 46:6 57:18 57:23 58:17 59:3,3,13,17,22		

[know - lift]

Page 31

136:9 137:25 138:15,18 140:24 142:2,4 142:4,17 143:6 143:19,21,23 145:10,11,11 146:16 147:13 149:2,24 150:6 151:9,14,23 152:13 155:14 156:5 157:9,16 157:20 158:22 159:16,23,24 160:6,23 162:23 163:14 163:18 164:13 164:24 166:5 166:18 168:10 169:1 170:7,15 170:22 171:24 171:25 172:9 172:11,12,15 173:1,3,3 174:10,19 176:13,13 177:6 178:3 179:4,8 184:14 185:4,19 186:8 186:10,17,17 190:11,17 191:17 193:8 194:7 195:21 196:3,5,6,20,23 196:25,25 198:16 199:6	199:14,15,25 200:9,21 203:18 204:24 210:17,20 211:4,11 212:21 213:2 214:4,12 215:1 217:9,15,17,19 218:10 220:2 221:11 227:1,2 228:20 229:19 229:20 230:3 230:15 232:19 232:20 <b>knowing</b> 164:18 180:13 <b>knowledge</b> 28:13,14 <b>known</b> 152:20 174:9 180:16 189:1 <b>knows</b> 24:18 29:25 30:1 109:3 218:8,9 218:10 <b>I</b> <b>I</b> 1:22 2:4,5 235:24 237:1 <b>label</b> 149:8 <b>labeled</b> 73:23 117:10 130:1 201:19 <b>lack</b> 97:20 176:7 203:4	<b>laid</b> 226:24 <b>large</b> 170:22 <b>largely</b> 92:5 149:13,17 150:7 <b>larger</b> 14:5 86:2 87:3 98:5 138:16 <b>lasts</b> 190:11 <b>lateral</b> 90:14 103:23 <b>latest</b> 170:4 <b>law</b> 106:25 234:4 <b>lawyers</b> 46:14 46:15 51:19 <b>lay</b> 40:25 <b>laying</b> 86:16 <b>lead</b> 219:14,15 <b>lean</b> 105:11 <b>learn</b> 15:5,9 32:22 33:22,23 134:6 <b>leave</b> 63:12 66:13 74:18 <b>led</b> 121:6 <b>left</b> 146:17,24 149:20,22 181:12 182:10 186:13 224:8 <b>legos</b> 142:8 <b>leitz</b> 1:22 235:24 <b>leon</b> 2:7	<b>letting</b> 92:24 156:1 161:19 161:19 191:25 <b>level</b> 100:22 124:9 130:17 131:13,19,21 132:8,11,13,16 132:22,24 133:1,22 140:14 149:12 149:16 156:12 157:5,25 158:1 158:9 190:8 215:13,17,18 215:19,24,25 216:7 217:8 222:13 232:18 <b>leveling</b> 228:11 228:14 <b>levels</b> 132:24 215:13,22 <b>license</b> 183:4 <b>life</b> 15:8 <b>lift</b> 44:24 46:6 57:17,19,21,23 58:1,4,9,11,17 58:22 59:13,19 59:22 138:15 138:21 139:21 217:5 224:4,6 224:9,12,12 225:4,6 226:7 226:8,11,12,12 226:20 228:7 228:15
--	---	---	---

[lifted - looked]

Page 32

<b>lifted</b> 38:6 44:6 44:9,12,24 98:5 117:3,4 118:17 121:15 125:16 137:23 138:1,5 195:2 195:9,21 198:13,16 199:1,7 204:20 <b>lifting</b> 228:12 228:13,16,17 <b>likely</b> 54:4 232:21 <b>likewise</b> 210:8 <b>limit</b> 47:11 76:4 <b>limited</b> 30:11 44:2 204:20 <b>line</b> 86:5 118:8 118:9,14,15 146:13 158:5 197:9 213:19 213:23 214:10 214:16 215:4 215:24 216:6,7 216:10 220:24 221:13 238:19 239:1 <b>lines</b> 103:25 118:7 206:17 211:17 <b>link</b> 174:4 <b>list</b> 3:14 43:7 43:21 44:3,4 46:9,22,24 47:24 50:2	52:24 <b>listed</b> 43:24 56:5 91:10 117:9 207:22 <b>listen</b> 178:4 <b>listing</b> 77:1 150:23 <b>literally</b> 140:22 140:23 146:19 195:25 <b>literature</b> 168:23 <b>little</b> 17:11,24 22:10,12 24:15 24:16 43:4 55:16 77:10 88:15 105:4 109:2 113:10 134:21 141:11 145:15 146:7 146:22 147:1 152:4 154:3 156:2 168:9 175:8 182:14 182:17,21 194:1 221:14 225:25 226:8 226:12 228:18 229:3,20 230:25 <b>llc</b> 1:9 2:6,14 <b>llc's</b> 3:9 <b>loaded</b> 56:22 188:10	<b>local</b> 81:5 <b>locate</b> 6:23 7:20 143:5,7 <b>located</b> 83:23 142:4 160:7 <b>location</b> 16:18 83:22 84:8 140:13 144:2,3 144:10 145:1 157:16 158:20 181:19 185:7,9 <b>locations</b> 84:7 <b>lock</b> 7:8 126:8 <b>logical</b> 85:9 <b>logo</b> 147:12 <b>long</b> 15:15 64:21 80:21 81:24 163:6 166:10 181:6 <b>longer</b> 34:11 36:20 103:12 <b>longitudinal</b> 90:13,13 103:25 <b>look</b> 13:3 17:2 19:1,2,13 22:25 31:10 32:6,7 33:3 35:19 40:2 43:4 45:11 51:6 53:7 56:12,12 57:24 62:14 64:25 66:4 69:18 72:16 76:7	77:1,14 78:7 78:20 79:9,13 81:2 84:13 89:5,19,20,21 92:16 93:8 97:4 99:17 104:4 105:2 107:23 113:9 113:13 121:12 131:16 138:9 139:16,21 142:22 144:16 144:18,18 147:10,11 148:5 157:4 159:15 163:22 164:19 166:17 168:22 170:1 179:8 182:2,13 183:7 186:20 194:17 196:21 197:20 214:23 216:11,16 218:15 221:4 227:5 228:24 231:2 <b>looked</b> 7:5,12 20:8 39:16 56:9 58:4 65:6 78:10 83:20 112:7 153:5 170:23 179:20 181:17 199:17 221:1
---	--	--	--



[looking - marked]

Page 33

<b>looking</b> 6:16 21:25 29:16 31:20 54:9 60:23 63:1 65:6 67:20 71:18 86:5 92:8 95:13,18 95:22 99:8 101:13 102:11 105:1 109:14 113:8 114:25 114:25 122:23 129:1 133:1 137:9 139:11 158:4 160:19 160:22 163:3 186:8,14 189:21 192:16 194:12,20 196:21 197:1 207:15 211:19 212:17 222:19 <b>looks</b> 65:7 102:7 156:13 179:10 182:7 182:14 222:8 <b>lost</b> 34:19 99:18 <b>lot</b> 15:11 16:14 17:4,17 26:1 32:3 34:19 37:10 45:10 46:6 48:17 53:11 55:1 75:25 89:20	138:3 169:23 186:11 217:24 <b>lots</b> 211:11 <b>love</b> 156:6 <b>low</b> 227:25 <b>lower</b> 227:15 231:16 <b>lowest</b> 231:9 <b>luggage</b> 82:17 82:18 <b>lynn</b> 41:17 <b>m</b> <b>macro</b> 144:16 <b>madam</b> 141:13 <b>made</b> 36:11,12 37:17 61:15 136:21 146:20 217:13 221:11 223:25 224:5 226:19 234:3 234:21 <b>magnitude</b> 91:18 <b>mail</b> 237:10 <b>main</b> 122:17 <b>maintain</b> 7:6 46:19 <b>maintaining</b> 234:13 <b>majority</b> 16:7 43:22,23 <b>make</b> 12:7 16:2 17:10 22:14 27:4 28:23 31:6,23,24	32:14 40:3,7,8 48:5 50:6 51:2 59:7 60:19,25 63:8,12 69:18 75:25 76:12,14 85:22,24 86:18 91:5 93:8 94:16 95:18,20 95:21,25 98:7 99:13 100:19 101:21 106:13 108:5 110:7 115:12 116:12 122:18 123:11 134:9 146:3 151:7 159:8,10 178:4 182:4 186:2 194:9 199:21 201:1 203:18,24 205:24 206:4 223:10 224:7 229:22 234:10 238:10 <b>makes</b> 54:14 76:13 91:1 132:17 219:15 <b>making</b> 17:6 33:12 60:17 64:7 90:20 113:1 159:19 234:12 238:13 238:13 <b>manage</b> 47:7,9	<b>management</b> 52:21 <b>manager</b> 52:19 52:23 <b>managers</b> 52:25 <b>managing</b> 133:16 <b>manipulate</b> 115:11 161:25 <b>manipulates</b> 174:5 <b>manipulating</b> 25:4 <b>mansell</b> 237:18 <b>manual</b> 101:1 <b>manually</b> 237:8 <b>manufacture</b> 62:5,8 <b>manufactured</b> 62:23 79:18 80:18 <b>manufacturer</b> 80:21 81:17 96:18 97:8 228:19 <b>mark</b> 12:18 43:7 73:12 75:11 <b>marked</b> 10:16 12:14 43:10 50:3,22 73:15 75:14 106:20 117:6 149:5 223:11
---	---	--	--



## [marks - measurement]

Page 34

<b>marks</b> 146:20 146:24	117:10 139:12 183:1 200:15	53:5 56:6 57:5 57:8 59:11	<b>meant</b> 24:25 76:21 198:22 202:11
<b>married</b> 122:9	<b>math</b> 106:12	61:11 63:20	<b>measure</b> 27:8
<b>marries</b> 146:10	210:17 224:2	67:23 68:19	80:7 86:16
<b>mashman</b> 2:5 4:13,17	224:13,23 228:24	78:1 83:9 88:12 95:9,14	100:24 101:14 104:5,14
<b>mass</b> 185:19,20 185:21,22,22 185:25 186:4,4 186:9	<b>mathematical</b> 22:10 116:13 126:24	96:13 103:17 108:21 117:5 122:24 124:21	129:11 131:12 132:5,8,11 133:21 135:20
<b>match</b> 19:19,20 22:5,17 23:9 25:18 94:24 106:15,18,18 113:23 143:18 144:17 154:25 155:1,3,7 174:9 176:18 180:16 191:17 192:12 193:18 204:3 205:25 206:4 209:11	<b>mathematically</b> 119:6 <b>mathematics</b> 206:8 <b>matter</b> 43:5 52:12 76:23 91:12 114:14 114:16 144:14 185:23 186:16 186:16,17 234:11,17	125:9 126:10 126:14 127:9 134:13,25 136:15,17 137:12 140:25 141:7 142:9 151:6 154:13 160:3 163:21 166:12 167:15 168:20,23 171:8 172:9 177:9 184:25 185:3 188:16 195:25 203:3 204:7 210:22 214:22 216:17 216:18 230:18	136:10 139:25 144:24 163:7 190:21 214:3 216:15,19 219:17 229:4 <b>measured</b> 25:23 80:3 82:9 101:15 103:5,24 105:23 110:10 110:11 115:14 129:19 134:7 138:5 152:15 176:19,19 191:13 217:6 226:25 227:4 227:10
<b>matched</b> 62:15 147:4 154:1 216:13	<b>matters</b> 171:23 <b>max</b> 155:10 <b>maximum</b> 103:20 105:22 118:3 140:14 141:22 145:18 150:23,24 219:4	<b>meaning</b> 28:3 118:2 131:20 146:18 168:2 187:23	<b>measurement</b> 85:15 86:18 88:5,10 90:3 104:10 106:1 110:15 121:8 142:13,20 148:20 220:20
<b>matches</b> 169:18	<b>mean</b> 7:11 14:23 15:2 17:21 21:8 23:17 31:12 35:8,19 38:25 43:2 44:14,16 47:9 49:10,12	<b>meanings</b> 94:4 <b>means</b> 11:14 21:17 117:20 133:14 161:14 199:6	
<b>matching</b> 22:21 23:5 141:2			
<b>material</b> 5:13 76:25 99:10 166:3 167:1 198:6			
<b>materials</b> 54:8 71:21 75:4,6 82:13 107:8,9			

<b>measurements</b> 60:14,19,25 80:12 100:6,10 100:13,19 102:4,7 106:8 118:10 121:1 131:21 138:25 157:24 168:11 <b>measures</b> 26:4 101:14 214:6 227:9 <b>measuring</b> 101:16,23 102:1 114:13 129:7,7 142:24 143:3 144:1 152:23 156:11 229:6 <b>mechanical</b> 121:20 <b>mechanics</b> 21:9 <b>mechanism</b> 99:1 162:18 <b>mechanisms</b> 85:13 <b>medical</b> 182:25 183:5,15,18,22 <b>meeting</b> 51:22 54:23 <b>melanie</b> 65:18 65:20 <b>memorialize</b> 104:17 <b>memorialized</b> 104:25	<b>memory</b> 14:2 64:19 67:17 104:10 182:9 197:7 <b>mention</b> 49:25 88:18 90:5 <b>mentioned</b> 70:25 75:12 86:12 109:10 115:7 117:15 141:20 170:13 204:6 206:5 215:3 <b>mentioning</b> 73:21 <b>mentions</b> 169:1 <b>messages</b> 9:11 <b>messy</b> 73:5 <b>met</b> 5:7 <b>metal</b> 24:15 26:20 79:2,3 163:10 223:4 <b>method</b> 114:17 114:18 117:24 118:6,9,11 119:6 151:20 166:5 168:3 <b>methodologies</b> 114:11 132:14 152:22 170:18 170:25 <b>methodology</b> 118:16,22 119:1 134:1 163:15 167:3	171:4 211:23 212:22 <b>methods</b> 102:13 114:15 114:20 151:21 151:22,25 152:3 211:19 212:4,6,8 227:3 <b>miami</b> 14:3,3,4 14:6 <b>middle</b> 184:12 208:1 <b>mile</b> 196:11,24 <b>miles</b> 76:4 111:13,22 115:2 168:18 207:25 <b>miller</b> 2:20 <b>millionth</b> 176:1 <b>mind</b> 15:18 44:19 48:18 185:5 188:25 200:8 201:20 <b>mine</b> 38:12 73:2 92:17 162:3 <b>minor</b> 1:6 78:4 108:5 170:16 181:6 <b>minus</b> 80:25 81:1 226:4 <b>minute</b> 7:2 105:3 111:21 112:5 113:13	183:2 199:21 201:1 <b>minutes</b> 38:22 66:1 201:3 <b>mis</b> 224:14 <b>misexpressed</b> 224:15 <b>misfiring</b> 37:11 <b>misrepresent</b> 91:19 <b>missed</b> 108:19 199:22 226:16 <b>missing</b> 20:3,5 69:19 104:21 128:14 200:5,8 <b>misspoke</b> 111:21 112:4 <b>mistake</b> 223:25 224:5,24 226:20 <b>mistaken</b> 226:15 <b>misunderstan...</b> 30:3 131:25 <b>misunderstood</b> 139:14 <b>mix</b> 114:20 <b>mixing</b> 136:9 <b>mockup</b> 62:14 <b>mode</b> 185:20 185:20,21,22 186:3 <b>model</b> 27:1,17 27:22 31:2 42:4,15 62:18
--	--	---	--

[model - normal]

Page 36

95:21 96:22,22 99:4,12 113:25 120:6,7 151:8 157:5 163:13 184:21 185:8 209:18 225:2 <b>modeled</b> 103:20 <b>modeling</b> 41:22 <b>models</b> 97:22 110:5 221:25 <b>modify</b> 16:17 158:19 175:13 <b>module</b> 92:13 174:7 <b>modules</b> 16:14 <b>moment</b> 56:18 70:12 <b>momentum</b> 35:19 109:24 110:9,19 113:25 119:20 119:22 164:11 204:1 205:6,10 <b>monte</b> 151:18 151:24 <b>month</b> 47:17,18 53:22 <b>moran</b> 1:22 235:24 <b>morning</b> 104:2 <b>mosaics</b> 60:17 <b>motor</b> 195:24 <b>move</b> 7:9 19:15 37:15 145:16	146:23 147:5,7 147:10 <b>moved</b> 103:1,6 114:13 140:4 143:6,13,17,24 184:13,22 223:7 <b>movement</b> 102:17,21 144:6 <b>moving</b> 60:4 61:24 185:10 <b>muffler</b> 149:25 <b>multi</b> 212:19 <b>multiple</b> 45:23 57:18 167:17 212:16 <b>multiply</b> 98:16 226:5 <b>mushy</b> 92:7 <b>n</b> <b>n</b> 3:1 <b>n.e.</b> 2:15 <b>nail</b> 35:6 145:22 <b>nails</b> 35:8 <b>name</b> 5:6 49:6 49:14 52:8 58:14 65:17 <b>names</b> 49:17 <b>nature</b> 69:1 <b>near</b> 33:23 58:9 138:12 151:6 151:13 182:7,8	<b>nearly</b> 148:18 <b>necessarily</b> 72:22 96:20 97:12 214:9 <b>necessary</b> 238:15 <b>necessity</b> 46:5 <b>need</b> 8:8,8,20 14:18 15:24 19:9,25 20:6 20:12,13 21:24 27:8,9 28:11 28:18 35:15,22 38:2,2,4,13,17 42:14,23 63:16 111:4 113:1,14 122:18 129:10 129:20 141:15 178:8 189:8 204:23 <b>needed</b> 15:19 16:12 26:2,3 38:19 69:19,21 72:15,23 81:18 130:12 153:25 184:4 <b>needing</b> 17:21 <b>needs</b> 63:6 176:10 177:5 <b>negative</b> 91:10 91:11,15 <b>negatives</b> 91:13 <b>neither</b> 195:21 <b>nep</b> 188:19	<b>neptune</b> 23:1 130:2 131:16 177:2,12 179:22 180:1 187:6 188:4,14 188:20,23 189:1,8 190:1 190:2 207:20 <b>nervous</b> 10:12 <b>never</b> 9:22 33:23 38:9,14 49:17 115:16 115:20 134:15 164:22 225:13 <b>new</b> 48:14 51:12 125:3,4 150:16 179:13 <b>nhlsa</b> 188:16 188:20 189:19 189:23 190:3 <b>nodding</b> 180:2 <b>non</b> 224:18 <b>nondeployme...</b> 107:20,24 108:1 <b>nonlift</b> 195:20 <b>nonlifted</b> 116:24 195:11 195:13 202:22 <b>normal</b> 36:7,8 37:18 124:3 136:1,3,13,15 136:17 137:1,5 137:6,12,16 160:24 161:21
--	---	--	--

[normal - oh]

Page 37

168:15 <b>normally</b> 26:2 45:13 51:17,23 55:15 93:21 94:10,13 123:22 129:24 158:3 161:14 163:22 164:3 172:24 <b>northern</b> 1:1 <b>northwestern</b> 41:17 152:7 168:24,24 <b>notaries</b> 236:4 236:8 <b>notarized</b> 236:8 237:10 <b>notary</b> 239:24 <b>note</b> 12:20 76:3 92:8 <b>noted</b> 213:17 238:5,6 <b>nothing's</b> 219:19 <b>notice</b> 3:9 10:19 11:7 52:7 <b>noticed</b> 74:11 <b>noticing</b> 234:16 <b>notification</b> 77:4 <b>noting</b> 237:7 <b>number</b> 46:14 47:11 55:17 66:5,19 95:10	95:17,19,20 104:19,20,25 105:3 119:15 129:15,16 148:14 149:9 149:10 151:16 154:15 176:22 190:1 191:15 191:21 192:1 196:13,18,24 209:6 227:11 <b>numbers</b> 25:18 151:8 152:22 182:6,13 208:22 209:9 209:11,15 210:9,10,13 211:4 213:11 213:12,13,14 217:19 226:22 <b>nut</b> 32:2,6,15 <b>o</b> <b>o</b> 65:18 <b>object</b> 29:1 48:2 134:16 167:13 168:5 197:14 200:6 203:16 <b>objection</b> 10:24 200:22 <b>objections</b> 10:23 <b>objective</b> 60:12 <b>objects</b> 45:22 184:2	<b>obligation</b> 234:13 <b>observation</b> 58:8 122:18 135:21 159:18 <b>observations</b> 77:21,22 80:2 <b>observe</b> 137:4 161:16 162:9 162:11 <b>observed</b> 141:21 193:2 195:22 <b>obtaining</b> 58:22 <b>obvious</b> 123:3 <b>obviously</b> 7:7 21:23 27:18 44:22 68:9 118:8 144:21 149:9 162:23 170:11 171:9 211:21 <b>occupant</b> 110:12 135:24 136:5,24 187:24 195:1,8 195:12,14,22 196:17 <b>occupant's</b> 142:7 <b>occupants</b> 82:14 135:23 182:3,7,19,24 185:25	<b>occupying</b> 223:1 <b>occurred</b> 20:23 51:13 69:1 94:25 105:8 <b>occurring</b> 57:20 <b>ocga</b> 234:6,7,18 236:11 238:9 <b>october</b> 3:16 60:8 61:7 68:12 73:20 74:1 <b>oem</b> 97:20 224:18 <b>offering</b> 230:11 <b>office</b> 41:20 51:22 52:2 54:21 56:8 57:12 69:11 134:8 <b>officer's</b> 69:22 <b>officers</b> 60:16 61:15 69:15 76:8 107:9 <b>offices</b> 237:3,10 <b>offset</b> 103:23 104:11 <b>oh</b> 4:16 13:22 29:25 31:13 70:7 108:3 151:1 158:22 177:16 194:4 194:20 225:12
--	---	---	---

[okay - overlaps]

Page 38

<b>okay</b> 5:20 6:20 7:24 10:3,6,13 10:15 11:19 12:18 13:13 15:20 16:9 18:7 19:11 21:16 22:23 27:25 31:13 37:22 39:15 42:21 47:5 49:22 53:4 57:10,15 59:16 59:24 61:24 63:11,18,25 68:3 69:4 71:16 74:14,20 75:16 76:2 77:12 81:7 83:4 90:6 93:5 95:17 97:24 99:7 100:5,16 102:7 104:14 106:11,23 108:4 111:14 117:2 118:25 119:8 121:10 127:12 128:24 132:19 133:8 134:8 139:8 143:2,25 144:14,21 146:5 147:15 148:4,16 149:2 153:14 155:9 156:9 162:2,18	165:7 168:5,7 173:14 175:22 176:21 178:1 178:16 179:3 179:17,21,25 180:7,12,15 181:14 184:7 185:18 187:13 187:15 188:9 189:14 194:21 195:6 199:14 199:19 201:24 202:14 203:8 205:10 206:7 206:12 208:14 209:11 210:3 210:12 211:9 213:22 216:25 220:19 223:12 224:1,2 225:20 225:22 227:23 229:14 230:3 <b>once</b> 16:25,25 23:4 65:16 101:17 108:11 121:18 147:7,7 185:14 237:9 <b>one's</b> 81:14 102:14 152:5 <b>ones</b> 81:5 108:10 110:9 195:24 208:20 <b>open</b> 8:12 24:15 93:1 202:1	<b>opining</b> 84:24 <b>opinion</b> 34:25 82:11 91:25 118:15 123:13 124:17 126:1 134:14 161:4 172:3 184:24 198:15,21 210:10 211:9 <b>opinions</b> 13:10 59:19 76:12 168:4 189:18 194:22 198:9 198:23 200:24 <b>opportunity</b> 63:21 <b>opposed</b> 158:4 <b>options</b> 169:2 <b>orange</b> 171:15 171:16 <b>oranges</b> 33:4 136:10 <b>order</b> 16:12 31:6 32:11 36:1 47:12 59:7,17 197:25 205:21 <b>ordered</b> 60:1,1 96:9 <b>ordering</b> 234:24 237:13 <b>organization</b> 41:25 <b>orientation</b> 24:6	<b>orientations</b> 16:23 <b>original</b> 6:12 6:22 7:4,21 8:3 9:4 48:17 86:12 122:9 142:2 152:6 182:10 229:11 237:12,14 <b>originally</b> 7:15 9:14 203:2 <b>outcome</b> 197:18 <b>outline</b> 60:14 <b>output</b> 22:6,16 25:6 154:1 179:7 191:18 193:2,5,13 206:4,5 <b>outputs</b> 17:3,4 22:4,21 23:5 25:5 26:12 <b>outside</b> 34:24 35:15 36:6,23 38:23 130:3 136:7 158:25 160:23 <b>overall</b> 91:18 127:24 157:4 186:16 203:13 <b>overlap</b> 211:20 211:22 <b>overlaps</b> 212:17
---	---	---	--

[overlay - penetrated]

Page 39

<b>overlay</b> 141:20 141:23,25 144:6 145:24 146:3 222:12 <b>overlays</b> 221:24 <b>overreport</b> 231:10 <b>overridden</b> 124:19 <b>override</b> 34:9 45:10,17,19,23 46:1,6 120:19 121:7 122:22 125:2,10,18 126:3,12,19 136:16 160:8 160:10,10,17 160:19,20,21 161:1,3,5,10,13 168:8 196:16 <b>overriding</b> 124:7 <b>overvalue</b> 114:21 <b>own</b> 41:14 81:7 81:8 158:7 180:8 214:17 215:12	<b>page</b> 3:2,7 12:22 13:13,14 55:19 66:7 75:20 76:3,14 76:16,16 77:20 80:2 85:21,22 85:24 86:6 94:17,21 95:4 99:17 100:5 102:16 103:19 105:5,5,15 108:4 113:10 116:9 117:15 118:19 126:22 128:8,14,23 129:19 137:20 137:21 148:9 148:16 149:11 150:22 153:1,2 192:17,18 202:1 203:8 205:14,20 208:9,18 209:4 213:5 238:19 239:1 <b>pages</b> 94:20 118:23 192:4 206:13 208:25 238:15 <b>paper</b> 5:21,22 7:6 24:14 130:21 208:23 208:24 209:3,6 <b>papers</b> 131:17 167:23 230:10	230:13 231:5 <b>paragraph</b> 105:4,15 108:15 153:4 <b>parameters</b> 17:12 39:3 211:7 <b>pardon</b> 113:4 133:9,9 <b>parents</b> 1:5 <b>part</b> 14:5 18:25 24:17 40:13 49:9 55:3 67:8 74:25 85:18 88:10 95:5 113:2 119:12 119:13 121:4 128:22 129:13 130:8 131:14 131:22 132:4 132:16 133:13 135:10,16 136:5,6,6 152:23 163:1 165:15 171:13 173:2 185:25 194:6 205:23 206:9 218:14 230:7 231:3 <b>particular</b> 13:7 16:5 84:13 95:15 122:23 155:23 156:13 158:20 159:12 174:7,22	176:20 181:8 182:3,12 197:8 <b>particularly</b> 41:3 <b>parties</b> 234:18 234:24 235:18 236:12,14 237:13 <b>parts</b> 21:6 38:1 106:2 146:2 148:5 162:20 <b>party</b> 234:14 234:19 236:13 <b>passenger</b> 195:8 196:2 199:12 <b>password</b> 234:23,24 <b>past</b> 5:8 18:7 44:23 172:17 219:19 <b>patience</b> 75:24 <b>pay</b> 48:16 230:22 <b>pc</b> 163:24 164:6,10 <b>pdf</b> 237:7,7 <b>pe</b> 235:2 237:2 239:19 <b>peachtree</b> 2:15 <b>peer</b> 166:2 167:10 <b>penetrated</b> 122:1 140:7 148:10 222:20
<b>p</b>			
<b>p</b> 65:18 <b>p.e.</b> 1:13 3:12 5:1 <b>p.m.</b> 233:10,12			

[people - point]

Page 40

<b>people</b> 53:8 67:18 90:19 182:16 183:3 183:18 185:16 190:5 211:24 <b>percent</b> 46:23 46:25 127:21 127:21 128:1,2 181:23,24 182:18 184:20 186:19 211:12 211:12 212:25 213:3 <b>percentage</b> 46:12 47:2 <b>percentages</b> 128:21 <b>perfect</b> 87:7 94:15 162:4 172:1,11 182:9 <b>perfectly</b> 19:20 24:12 62:15 151:9 169:9 <b>perform</b> 34:23 36:15 138:25 145:24 150:18 151:17 165:24 <b>performed</b> 56:23 67:16 76:17 189:11 189:17 <b>performing</b> 34:22 191:19 <b>period</b> 38:20 44:4 45:16	55:21,24 <b>periodically</b> 81:19 <b>person</b> 14:1 52:8,20,22 64:8,11,13 65:21 136:24 197:12 <b>person's</b> 65:12 <b>personally</b> 14:25 69:18 <b>perspective</b> 155:17 193:9 <b>phase</b> 9:22 123:8 190:11 <b>phone</b> 51:24 <b>photo</b> 60:17 84:13 89:22 194:8,17 <b>photograph</b> 84:8 149:5,10 149:15 <b>photographed</b> 80:11 <b>photographing</b> 60:17 <b>photographs</b> 61:12 69:22 149:7 <b>photos</b> 78:10 79:13 84:12 89:5 217:7 227:6 <b>phrased</b> 30:8	<b>physical</b> 19:8 19:13,19 33:25 56:24 84:21 145:19,22 172:23 213:19 <b>physically</b> 19:1 57:12 101:14 101:15,23 102:1 <b>physics</b> 15:10 29:25,25 152:13,19 <b>pick</b> 134:25 215:18 <b>picks</b> 215:20 <b>pickup</b> 19:24 89:2 130:10 <b>picture</b> 59:8,9 59:11 221:18 <b>pictures</b> 59:2 <b>piece</b> 154:14 198:10,18 199:18 <b>piecemeal</b> 36:21 <b>pieces</b> 36:22 142:20 <b>pillars</b> 33:6,7,7 <b>placard</b> 202:6 225:2 <b>placarded</b> 202:5,16 <b>place</b> 62:16 76:8,9,25 101:8 114:8	141:4 145:18 234:17 <b>placed</b> 141:21 <b>plaintiff</b> 46:14 46:18,25 <b>plaintiff's</b> 5:17 <b>plaintiffs</b> 1:7 2:3 4:13,17 5:14 6:6 11:14 <b>plan</b> 198:22 200:4 <b>plane</b> 190:8 <b>plasticity</b> 178:21 <b>platform</b> 28:7 <b>play</b> 126:19 181:3 186:23 <b>played</b> 123:14 <b>plays</b> 181:6 <b>please</b> 4:9,21 4:22 89:22 93:15 150:25 223:13 237:6 237:10,17 238:14,16 <b>plot</b> 213:12 219:19 220:22 <b>plotted</b> 213:16 <b>plural</b> 153:17 <b>plus</b> 80:25 81:1 146:25 205:4 <b>point</b> 6:16 13:16 53:18 56:1 57:25 73:7 77:22
---	--	--	---



80:2 98:11 119:23,23 122:17 126:24 137:22 138:8 140:6 144:24 148:17,20 149:15 153:1,4 153:12 159:12 173:9 189:6 191:23 194:16 200:1,22 219:12 220:12 220:13 228:3 231:6 <b>point's</b> 88:22 <b>pointed</b> 168:23 <b>pointing</b> 74:11 87:19 88:17 122:24 192:19 <b>points</b> 106:12 106:16,18,19 106:21 108:5 226:16 <b>poked</b> 123:24 146:20 <b>poking</b> 123:24 <b>police</b> 61:13 <b>ponce</b> 2:7 <b>poor</b> 63:17 218:3 <b>poorly</b> 30:8 224:13 <b>pops</b> 175:11,14 175:20	<b>porter</b> 65:18 66:2 <b>position</b> 16:21 83:6 141:22 148:11 <b>positioned</b> 84:1 <b>positive</b> 91:11 <b>positives</b> 91:13 <b>possibility</b> 125:17 <b>possible</b> 125:7 171:8 197:2 <b>possibly</b> 8:8 58:20 232:13 <b>post</b> 82:10 105:6,16 110:24 111:11 <b>posted</b> 76:3 <b>potential</b> 211:10 212:12 <b>potentially</b> 54:16 97:2 111:3 <b>pounds</b> 80:4 88:23 184:5 <b>practical</b> 219:20 229:18 <b>practically</b> 68:21 229:1 <b>practice</b> 6:7 <b>pre</b> 110:23 111:6 117:3,4 <b>precise</b> 186:19 <b>precisely</b> 23:5 24:19	<b>predict</b> 40:20 161:1 162:4 <b>predicting</b> 172:6 <b>predicts</b> 118:6 <b>prefer</b> 164:12 188:23 <b>preliminary</b> 56:11 71:11 <b>premier</b> 41:25 <b>preparation</b> 11:1 <b>prepare</b> 44:14 <b>preparing</b> 68:14 72:22 <b>present</b> 2:19 57:12 <b>presented</b> 108:9 197:24 200:14 234:1 <b>pretty</b> 15:4 21:10 45:4 98:15 154:13 170:7 175:15 191:14 230:6 <b>prevent</b> 121:21 <b>prevented</b> 123:25 124:7 <b>preventing</b> 26:5 <b>previous</b> 86:11 88:18 <b>previously</b> 5:17 <b>primarily</b> 146:8	<b>primary</b> 164:16 <b>primer</b> 41:20 <b>print</b> 8:13 9:13 71:1,19 72:25 127:18 237:8 <b>printed</b> 6:8 7:16 8:7 9:22 71:5,22,24 72:6,17,23,24 73:2 <b>printing</b> 72:11 72:18 73:7 <b>printout</b> 107:10 <b>printouts</b> 10:4 <b>prior</b> 5:15 65:21 82:2 139:18 154:10 154:21 163:19 <b>probably</b> 24:7 45:2 47:2 51:24 53:11 56:22 64:20 73:19 79:20 92:2 109:9 115:1 121:10 138:6,12 158:24 160:15 184:11 189:6 190:16 212:5 231:12 <b>problem</b> 8:11 8:17 76:24 82:6 90:9 97:6
---	--	---	--



103:16 107:19 142:8 165:16 166:22 172:2 197:8 214:13 <b>problems</b> 165:17,18 <b>procedure</b> 238:9 <b>proceeding</b> 234:1,19,23 236:9 <b>proceedings</b> 234:11 <b>proceeds</b> 56:14 <b>process</b> 15:15 26:24 58:6,7 60:24 154:24 154:24 189:3,4 <b>processing</b> 60:6 61:3 <b>produce</b> 154:1 155:24 210:14 223:7 231:21 <b>produced</b> 5:17 9:3 10:3 11:14 13:5 234:20 236:3,7 <b>producing</b> 11:17 <b>product</b> 23:20 <b>production</b> 236:3,8,9,10 237:17 <b>professional</b> 234:13 235:24	<b>profiles</b> 106:1,1 <b>program</b> 10:2 15:4 19:25 22:5,7 23:4 25:5,10 28:5 29:9 30:18 32:17 34:25 36:11 37:1,24 39:8 131:1 155:23 156:1,3 158:25 159:9 159:14,24 160:6,23 163:25 166:19 168:25 169:22 171:12 175:11 175:20 180:5,7 181:19 182:15 186:1 187:1,6 187:9,13,15 188:5 190:19 204:16 210:3 230:8,19,21,23 231:25 232:1 <b>program's</b> 161:9 169:10 <b>programs</b> 15:8 42:9 130:25 159:17 163:17 165:14,21 <b>progresses</b> 207:12 <b>prohibited</b> 234:17 236:11	<b>prohibitions</b> 234:8 <b>project</b> 47:21 48:21 49:4,6 52:10,14,18,21 52:23,25,25 65:14,15 <b>projects</b> 46:18 47:17 48:19 49:15 <b>pronounce</b> 58:13 89:11 <b>pronounced</b> 93:6 <b>pronunciation</b> 58:15 93:8 <b>proper</b> 30:10 32:23 79:7 84:7 154:4 155:12 174:20 176:15,16 228:20 <b>properly</b> 6:9 22:12 31:2,7 32:11,24 <b>property</b> 23:18 23:19 <b>protected</b> 234:23,24 <b>protecting</b> 136:4 <b>protocol</b> 131:22 132:25 133:21,24	<b>protocols</b> 132:16 <b>protrudes</b> 127:9 <b>provide</b> 15:21 20:18 63:5 85:13 190:22 220:20 234:16 <b>provided</b> 5:13 5:14 6:5 189:11 198:7 203:2 219:24 <b>providing</b> 85:12 <b>public</b> 239:24 <b>publication</b> 169:3 <b>published</b> 12:24 86:21 <b>pull</b> 95:11 117:8 137:18 162:20 210:21 221:4 <b>pulled</b> 162:24 <b>pulling</b> 53:13 <b>pulls</b> 185:13 <b>pulse</b> 169:18 <b>purchase</b> 179:6 <b>purchased</b> 57:19 62:2,22 62:22 <b>purchasing</b> 97:9 <b>pure</b> 102:4 123:16 142:19
---	--	--	--

[purely - ranges]

Page 43

<p><b>purely</b> 121:8</p> <p><b>purpose</b> 58:21 69:13 72:18 94:12 169:25 194:3</p> <p><b>purposeful</b> 211:6</p> <p><b>purposes</b> 28:13</p> <p><b>pursuant</b> 238:8</p> <p><b>push</b> 122:13 216:3</p> <p><b>pushed</b> 85:1,4 135:21 140:11 142:25 150:2,8 216:1,3</p> <p><b>pushing</b> 123:6</p> <p><b>put</b> 7:7 16:24 21:23 25:7 41:8 54:15 64:1 65:25 67:2 68:7 73:1 74:22 82:7 83:17 84:4,18 88:2 98:23 101:17 102:5 106:18,21 112:23 114:23 138:19 145:24 154:2 155:18 155:21 181:11 181:15,15,20 182:3,5,15 183:19 186:1,3 191:15 192:25 196:18 201:14</p>	<p>203:10 205:10 206:3 211:4 212:11 226:10 229:6</p> <p><b>putt</b> 169:22 186:12</p> <p><b>putting</b> 35:1 81:13</p> <tr> <td><b>q</b></td><td rowspan="2"> <p><b>qualification</b> 124:22</p> <p><b>quarter</b> 86:24 87:9 101:10 114:14 190:11</p> <p><b>ques</b> 199:5</p> <p><b>question</b> 8:2 18:13,21 19:12 20:20 27:7,11 29:2,24 30:8 31:18 34:16 46:11 48:3,3,6 49:18 50:8 67:25 70:20 88:21 92:18 97:25 101:21 103:22 104:2 108:18 111:17 112:8 113:3 125:5 134:17 139:10 141:11 141:13,24 144:13 145:12 167:14 168:6 177:24 178:5 181:22 195:10</p> </td></tr> <tr> <td></td></tr>	<b>q</b>	<p><b>qualification</b> 124:22</p> <p><b>quarter</b> 86:24 87:9 101:10 114:14 190:11</p> <p><b>ques</b> 199:5</p> <p><b>question</b> 8:2 18:13,21 19:12 20:20 27:7,11 29:2,24 30:8 31:18 34:16 46:11 48:3,3,6 49:18 50:8 67:25 70:20 88:21 92:18 97:25 101:21 103:22 104:2 108:18 111:17 112:8 113:3 125:5 134:17 139:10 141:11 141:13,24 144:13 145:12 167:14 168:6 177:24 178:5 181:22 195:10</p>	
<b>q</b>	<p><b>qualification</b> 124:22</p> <p><b>quarter</b> 86:24 87:9 101:10 114:14 190:11</p> <p><b>ques</b> 199:5</p> <p><b>question</b> 8:2 18:13,21 19:12 20:20 27:7,11 29:2,24 30:8 31:18 34:16 46:11 48:3,3,6 49:18 50:8 67:25 70:20 88:21 92:18 97:25 101:21 103:22 104:2 108:18 111:17 112:8 113:3 125:5 134:17 139:10 141:11 141:13,24 144:13 145:12 167:14 168:6 177:24 178:5 181:22 195:10</p>			

 195:17 197:14 198:1,12 199:7 199:24 200:1,7 200:20,21 203:17 205:9 206:23 208:12 220:1  **questions** 12:6 12:6 26:13 29:4 38:12,24 44:1 51:4 59:25 109:25 138:3 173:24 201:13 233:5 234:20 235:11 236:4  **quick** 21:18 67:21 89:22 106:23 113:13 115:25 187:3 200:25 207:4  **quicker** 103:13  **quickly** 12:13 44:17 57:15 104:5  **quite** 22:8 26:14 58:20 66:19 114:24 176:10 217:2 228:3  **quote** 117:22 | **r** | **r** 56:9 65:18,18 235:1 | |  |  | | **radius** 86:2,20 87:3  **radiuses** 87:7  **rail** 138:4 157:17  **rails** 26:19 33:9 34:19 78:23,24 79:10,11,12 137:25 150:2 157:20 162:14  **raise** 4:23 228:7  **raised** 202:2  **ran** 23:22 27:17,19 35:25 39:5 40:18 67:9 71:10 99:13 115:9 130:24 153:19 154:11 208:3  **range** 25:11 96:23 127:16 151:15,22 152:1 210:14 210:25 211:1,6 211:24 212:8 212:10,24 213:2 218:20 218:25 224:12 228:8  **ranged** 131:3  **ranges** 139:4 211:21 212:23 212:25 |

[rate - reconstruct]

Page 44

<b>rate</b> 52:3,9,13 52:14,15 64:4 92:5 172:3	33:13 35:4 36:11 38:9 45:4 50:8	182:8 187:7 195:20 207:3 228:21	<b>rebound</b> 24:10 105:7,19,22 178:20
<b>rates</b> 21:5	62:11 63:14	<b>reason</b> 19:21	<b>rebounced</b>
<b>rather</b> 198:3	67:8 73:6	20:21 22:16	140:20
<b>ratio</b> 47:13 187:21	87:17 92:22 114:12,15	32:6 40:15 84:3 124:14	<b>recalculate</b> 189:8
<b>ratios</b> 152:16	115:21 116:19	126:4 154:5	<b>recalibrated</b>
<b>read</b> 74:18 140:15 141:13 233:8 237:6 238:3	133:15 152:21 154:6,15 158:2 158:5 166:9 170:20 181:9	165:12 170:14 186:17 238:19 239:1	81:17
<b>readability</b> 80:23	190:10 194:6 197:11 204:23	<b>reasonable</b> 36:13,14 39:17 40:6 119:18	<b>recall</b> 44:11,13 44:17,22 45:16 47:3 48:1 52:10 92:10 165:2,9
<b>reader's</b> 75:9	211:1 217:8,25	120:13 125:17	<b>received</b> 9:2,6 14:14 218:25
<b>reading</b> 53:15 81:25 103:14 228:2	219:1 226:12 228:3	135:9 151:9 152:1 154:9 165:23 177:6 177:11 185:9 204:11 212:10 230:23	<b>receives</b> 234:19 236:13
<b>readout</b> 107:6	<b>rear</b> 26:17 29:19 30:17 45:21 77:23 78:21 84:20 85:1 121:16 128:3 130:19 131:5,6,7,11 135:12,17,20 136:7,8,23 140:7,9,24 142:7 143:17 143:20,20,23 144:2,2 146:8 146:11,18 148:11,11 150:5,17 158:16 169:9 180:5 181:24	<b>reasonably</b> 19:5,5 28:2 36:16,23,25 83:8 84:1 124:20,22 125:7 135:3 171:1 176:19 181:7 215:24	<b>recent</b> 179:5,6 <b>recently</b> 49:6,9 <b>recess</b> 70:15 116:4 173:19 201:7
<b>reads</b> 100:7		<b>reasoning</b> 18:17	<b>recognize</b> 49:13
<b>real</b> 11:22 12:12 37:3 67:20,25 68:21 89:22 106:23 115:24 171:10 171:10 187:3 207:4 227:23		<b>reasons</b> 21:1 37:10 161:3 164:3 238:12	<b>recollection</b> 83:12,14,25 175:19 188:2 227:22
<b>reality</b> 30:1,1 115:20 151:8			<b>recommend</b> 42:2
<b>realize</b> 66:14			<b>recommended</b> 97:22 138:16
<b>realized</b> 59:14			<b>reconstruct</b> 19:6 20:1
<b>really</b> 14:17 15:3 17:17,21 18:20 20:4 24:18,23 26:1			

[reconstruct - remember]

Page 45

26:15 <b>reconstruction</b> 41:16 42:8 60:22 66:19,21 66:23,25 152:14 169:1 <b>record</b> 4:4,10 6:8 11:21,25 12:1,3 70:14 70:17 99:22,25 100:1,3 108:1 116:3,6 124:11 173:18,21 201:6,9 223:14 223:17,18,20 233:11 234:11 234:12,20 235:14 <b>recorded</b> 19:24 51:25 107:12 107:16 169:19 235:7 <b>recording</b> 108:10 127:1 <b>records</b> 53:8 70:24 77:5 108:8 182:25 183:5,15,18,22 <b>recreate</b> 9:24 9:25 19:3 <b>red</b> 117:18 118:9,14 213:17,19 215:24 216:6 216:10 222:3	223:3,6 <b>reduced</b> 148:18 213:1 235:12 <b>redundancy</b> 102:12 <b>refer</b> 73:19 117:13 153:3 <b>reference</b> 42:1 49:5 61:25 66:18,21 75:5 108:21 183:3 192:13 <b>referenced</b> 61:13 71:20 72:21 169:3 206:21 <b>references</b> 42:9 147:25 183:9 <b>referencing</b> 66:22,23,24 95:15 107:6 146:3 <b>referring</b> 183:20 198:14 215:4 222:10 <b>refers</b> 60:12 116:13 <b>refine</b> 24:20 153:25 <b>reflect</b> 50:11 64:7 66:20 227:20 <b>reflected</b> 13:8 13:18 65:13,22 70:1	<b>reflecting</b> 192:24 <b>reflects</b> 50:10 50:13 <b>regard</b> 53:21 94:5 172:5 184:7 <b>regarding</b> 173:25 <b>registered</b> 184:15 235:24 <b>regular</b> 165:15 <b>regularly</b> 82:5 <b>regulations</b> 234:5 <b>reiterate</b> 38:2 <b>relate</b> 152:14 207:5 <b>related</b> 42:22 50:18 51:9 67:12 74:21 77:22 109:17 174:23 236:9 <b>relates</b> 11:5,13 70:20 127:24 <b>relating</b> 234:23 <b>relation</b> 83:23 129:22 <b>relationship</b> 234:11 236:11 <b>relationships</b> 152:19 <b>relative</b> 78:12 91:14 150:13 222:15,20	235:17,19 <b>relatively</b> 150:11,16 221:12 <b>relaxation</b> 154:16 155:23 169:16 174:2,4 174:9 175:1 176:2 <b>relevant</b> 9:17 197:12 <b>reliability</b> 172:5 <b>reliable</b> 27:20 36:1 59:16 166:4 167:3 168:3 <b>reliably</b> 35:17 <b>rely</b> 34:12 37:23 99:13 172:22 198:8 <b>relying</b> 13:9 59:18 122:21 145:23 189:16 <b>remarkably</b> 123:8 <b>remember</b> 13:23 14:6,17 44:15 45:9,12 49:17 58:6 62:3,4,7,10 64:18 65:3 69:20 75:7,10 77:9 79:8,9,14 80:20 81:6,21
---	---	--	--

84:13 89:14,17 92:11 107:17 107:21 119:22 129:16 153:24 163:21 164:2 165:6,16,17 166:13,14 175:13 193:10 193:11 194:11 194:12,13 196:23 197:3,6 201:21 217:1 229:5 <b>remind</b> 128:17 129:9 <b>reminding</b> 127:5 128:25 <b>remote</b> 1:14 2:1 <b>remotely</b> 1:21 4:1 <b>remove</b> 193:24 <b>removed</b> 194:16 <b>repeat</b> 141:17 167:5 <b>repeated</b> 141:15 <b>rephrase</b> 18:23 <b>report</b> 3:19 9:2 9:3,7,7,10,11 13:6 28:23 53:16 68:12,13 71:19,21,25 72:10,12,16,22 73:21 74:1,3,5	74:7,10,24 75:1,2,5,17,19 75:22 94:22 116:8 137:18 137:21 149:12 150:21,23 201:16,18 207:19 211:3 214:2 225:5 226:10 234:12 <b>reported</b> 1:21 107:9 151:11 214:7 218:18 <b>reporter</b> 4:15 4:21,22 49:25 73:14 99:18 141:14,15 201:22 208:16 234:1,2,6,9,21 234:22 235:24 236:5,7 <b>reporting</b> 94:1 126:25 129:10 214:9 215:12 234:5,16 <b>reports</b> 7:17,22 8:5 9:13 71:1 71:24 72:14 192:15 215:21 215:22 236:13 <b>repository</b> 234:24 <b>represent</b> 4:10 60:11 174:22 207:1 222:17	232:11 <b>representation</b> 70:5 165:23 214:11 230:24 <b>representations</b> 234:3 <b>representative</b> 27:14 29:15 120:2 132:10 <b>represented</b> 221:5 <b>representing</b> 163:5,7 <b>represents</b> 17:13 130:14 176:25 219:4 221:14 236:3,5 <b>request</b> 236:9 236:14 <b>requested</b> 10:23 11:4 233:13 <b>require</b> 43:23 106:3 <b>required</b> 187:22,23,25 <b>requirement</b> 149:3 <b>requires</b> 55:6 228:12 <b>rerun</b> 8:10,20 8:23,24 72:13 72:18 154:12 <b>research</b> 14:19 77:10	<b>researched</b> 107:20 <b>reservation</b> 160:12 <b>reserved</b> 237:6 <b>respect</b> 22:4 30:4 <b>respected</b> 166:20 <b>respectively</b> 206:19 <b>responsibility</b> 159:2 <b>responsible</b> 159:22 160:13 <b>rest</b> 9:19 113:5 <b>restitution</b> 17:25 22:8,24 23:8,11,22 24:1,24 25:5 25:19 26:10 110:18,20 111:24 112:1 112:18,24 113:22 114:2,9 115:4,8,11 119:9,17 120:9 154:16,17 155:10,22 169:17 174:6 176:3,4,4,8,24 177:22 178:14 178:19 180:8 180:19 191:1,4 191:10,21
---	--	--	---

192:20 203:12	<b>ride</b> 96:15	85:21,22 86:11	160:25 166:15
203:13,23	<b>right</b> 4:23 7:19	87:10 88:8,11	168:1,13 169:3
204:2,4,11,22	8:22 9:1,16	89:25 90:10	173:11 174:8
205:7,14,19	10:6 11:12,18	91:5,25 93:10	174:19 177:13
206:4	12:12,16,25	93:12 94:19,21	179:10,13
<b>restitutions</b>	13:13,25 14:5	95:6,21 98:7	180:18 181:21
22:15 23:25	14:14 16:18	98:23 99:6,11	182:23 183:23
154:21 204:5	18:1,22 22:8	99:11 101:19	184:17 185:12
<b>restroom</b>	23:14,19 25:8	101:25 103:19	186:13 188:8
113:14	25:25 30:20	104:1,15	189:10,23
<b>result</b> 21:25	32:16,22 35:24	106:15 107:7	190:9 192:20
170:25 183:21	40:19,23 42:7	108:7,14	192:24 197:2
214:22,22	43:6,6,25 46:9	109:20,22	199:20 200:2
232:9	46:21 47:14,23	110:1,7,14	202:17 203:3
<b>results</b> 115:10	48:10,13 49:2	111:1,5,15	203:15 204:14
115:12,14	49:24 50:5,17	112:11 114:6	207:4,19 208:5
170:12	50:21,24 51:17	115:3,7 116:8	209:1,6,7
<b>retained</b> 46:13	52:24 53:9	117:1,8,13,17	212:24 213:13
46:15 47:24	54:18 55:9,15	117:25 118:18	213:16 216:21
51:20	55:18 56:4	118:20,23	219:6,24 220:6
<b>retainer</b> 50:18	57:15,21 58:19	119:4,19	220:15 221:21
<b>retrieval</b> 107:5	61:6 62:4,20	125:14,21	222:16 223:10
<b>returned</b>	64:1,12 65:14	126:4,22 128:7	224:21 225:19
237:11,14	65:19 66:4,11	128:12 129:15	226:17 227:8
<b>revealed</b> 105:7	67:8,13 68:7	129:18,24	227:19 228:2
105:18	69:25 70:8,11	130:1,7 131:25	231:24 233:3,6
<b>review</b> 66:18	71:4,5,8,13,14	135:11,15	237:6
234:2 237:6	71:17 72:1,5	137:20 138:24	<b>rim</b> 88:8 184:9
<b>reviewed</b> 54:7	74:9,22 75:11	139:23 142:23	<b>ripped</b> 79:3
166:2 167:10	75:18,19,20	145:20 148:21	<b>rise</b> 124:1
<b>reviewing</b>	77:20 79:15,22	148:23 149:4	<b>road</b> 2:15
74:11	80:1,1,13,15	149:23,23	<b>roadway</b> 23:13
<b>richard</b> 2:12	81:8,11,25	150:20,22	190:15,22
<b>rick</b> 4:11,18 5:6	82:1,4,9,16,24	151:3,5 154:10	<b>robust</b> 27:5
70:12 105:10	84:5 85:15,21	155:6,20	28:7 114:19

**[robust - seat]**

Page 48

163:18 <b>robustness</b> 41:21 <b>role</b> 47:3 123:14 126:20 181:3,6 <b>roof</b> 146:16,19 221:16,16 <b>roswell</b> 237:18 <b>rotate</b> 147:10 147:11 162:25 <b>rotated</b> 103:3 <b>rotation</b> 21:5 82:7,8 <b>rough</b> 1:9 3:8 10:12 57:19,23 59:1 <b>rpr</b> 1:23 <b>rsa</b> 1:23 <b>rule</b> 238:8 <b>rulers</b> 100:25 <b>rules</b> 234:4 238:8 <b>run</b> 9:14,18 15:20 16:12 17:1 18:10 19:9 20:22 21:1,17 22:20 23:4 38:19 40:6 45:20,22 70:25 71:1,6 71:23 72:2,7 72:10,17 92:7 125:1 159:7,13 176:11 182:3	187:1 188:1 <b>running</b> 16:1 16:20 155:3 <b>runs</b> 168:18 218:11 <b>rws</b> 1:8  s s 3:5 56:9 154:6 <b>sae</b> 152:6 208:23 209:5 210:21 229:25 <b>safe</b> 135:6 <b>santana</b> 1:4 183:14 <b>saved</b> 6:10 154:11 <b>saw</b> 64:11 65:20 78:18 79:18 83:13,22 89:15 111:24 224:4 <b>saying</b> 7:11,12 9:12 33:21 34:10 36:2 39:10 42:3 63:18 65:21 82:24 88:23 102:20 118:1 124:5 126:17 126:20 137:12 139:15 144:8 159:20,25 160:1 163:4 164:9,13,16 171:23 179:17	186:5,7 187:23 201:21 202:21 204:8 205:14 215:16 218:25 220:2 225:4 232:10 <b>says</b> 29:5 54:5 71:7,19 164:4 171:21 192:20 202:2 213:25 <b>scale</b> 61:15,16 82:6 88:2 <b>scales</b> 80:9,11 80:15,19,24 81:7 88:24 <b>scan</b> 60:6 69:13 98:19 100:8,17 194:9 202:2 <b>scanned</b> 66:1 94:24 99:3 <b>scanning</b> 69:20 194:4 <b>scans</b> 57:7 60:24,25 61:3 100:18,21 101:16,16 102:10 227:2 <b>scenario</b> 197:25 <b>scene</b> 17:16,16 17:17,18 19:2 60:8,9,15 61:6 61:7,10 69:1,5 69:8,11,14,17 76:6,6,11	83:20 <b>schedule</b> 3:17 50:6,9 54:25 55:7 81:21 <b>scheduled</b> 68:18 <b>scientific</b> 166:4 168:3 <b>screen</b> 10:7,13 12:12,16 42:25 68:2 71:15 73:11 74:16,22 149:4 183:19 201:12,14 <b>seal</b> 237:12 <b>searches</b> 184:2 <b>seat</b> 62:1,5,8,15 62:24 63:4,8 65:24 84:4,20 85:1,2,4,5,16 85:17 102:18 102:22,22,24 102:25 103:1,2 103:3,7,7 133:18 135:12 135:18,21 136:1,4,13,24 140:9,11,24 141:6 142:2,7 142:14,16,24 142:24 143:3 143:10,10,13 143:20,20,22 143:23 144:3,7 144:19,19,21
--	---	---	--



[seat - show]

Page 49

144:23 145:1,3 146:1 147:14 148:11 182:16 182:19,24 184:12,12 193:24 194:7 194:19,23 <b>seat's</b> 143:6 <b>seats</b> 61:25 147:19 193:25 <b>second</b> 3:9 10:9 35:15 74:21 80:1 85:23 140:6 148:24 190:12 198:5 206:17 223:15 225:22 232:6 <b>section</b> 77:21 90:10 93:17 106:23 110:2 116:10,13,20 198:7,8 206:15 <b>sections</b> 234:6 234:7 <b>see</b> 5:8 9:19 10:13 12:16 16:4 17:13 19:18 23:18 31:14,14,15,19 33:25 52:5 58:25 64:8 66:8 71:14,18 76:11 77:8 78:8 83:19 86:8 89:19	93:18 97:5 104:20 105:1 113:1 114:22 116:9 128:12 129:18 131:18 142:6 143:2 147:12 150:5 150:17 151:3 172:10,15 179:8 189:15 196:23 201:3 204:25 214:14 216:17,18 218:18 223:2,4 223:6 225:19 227:12 228:25 229:25 <b>seeing</b> 107:19 <b>seem</b> 12:23 108:21 <b>seemed</b> 85:9 <b>seen</b> 9:9 65:16 66:2 78:3 115:16 196:11 196:22 <b>select</b> 16:16 99:10 <b>selected</b> 167:1 219:2 <b>selection</b> 99:5 <b>self</b> 81:13 <b>seminar</b> 15:3 <b>seminars</b> 14:25 15:9	<b>send</b> 81:20 237:12,17 <b>sense</b> 12:7 54:14 132:18 188:19 <b>sensing</b> 109:17 <b>sensitive</b> 232:22 <b>sensors</b> 109:11 <b>sent</b> 75:8 192:16 <b>sentence</b> 102:17 108:7 <b>sentences</b> 144:20 <b>separate</b> 116:22 213:9 <b>september</b> 3:15 43:12 60:5 64:2,5 68:10 70:6 76:19 <b>series</b> 111:23 113:21 <b>serve</b> 124:12,13 <b>services</b> 61:22 234:16 236:13 <b>set</b> 15:25 51:22 53:14 88:6,9 111:23 113:19 172:25 206:22 <b>setup</b> 51:13 53:10 <b>seven</b> 64:19,25 <b>several</b> 32:1	<b>severe</b> 197:11 <b>severity</b> 78:12 <b>shape</b> 46:2 60:13,14 62:12 161:23 162:10 216:18 217:1 <b>shapes</b> 218:9 <b>share</b> 10:7 12:12 71:14 103:13,15 150:25 201:12 <b>shared</b> 43:6 50:5,24 <b>sharing</b> 43:2 68:8 73:11 103:12 149:4 151:1 <b>sheet</b> 67:2 110:12 139:16 183:8,11,12 205:11 225:17 238:17 <b>shell</b> 162:19 <b>shift</b> 87:21 231:18 <b>shifting</b> 67:24 <b>shiny</b> 106:17 <b>shoes</b> 134:6,7 <b>shop</b> 134:25 <b>short</b> 65:7 115:25 <b>show</b> 15:24 54:10 55:8 78:10 113:5 126:6 135:20
---	--	---	---



135:20 136:11 147:6 194:5 217:7 225:22 231:4,8 <b>showed</b> 31:10 59:2 <b>showing</b> 51:7 103:20 118:20 126:5 149:5 <b>shown</b> 66:6 104:7,7 148:9 163:18 221:23 <b>shows</b> 89:4 112:24 139:16 <b>side</b> 45:21 47:12,20 104:9 131:9,10 135:1 179:23 186:13 186:13 187:10 187:24 188:4 192:21 206:25 <b>sides</b> 188:6 <b>sign</b> 237:6 <b>signature</b> 233:13 235:23 237:2,15 <b>signed</b> 237:9,11 237:14 <b>significance</b> 128:24 <b>significant</b> 79:10 <b>similar</b> 60:7 <b>simon</b> 42:11,14 42:19	<b>simple</b> 17:16 48:5 142:8 169:7 <b>simplest</b> 138:4 168:17 180:25 <b>simplified</b> 18:14 159:18 214:25 <b>simply</b> 9:21 108:8 143:16 <b>simulate</b> 18:4 18:11,15 26:6 28:22 31:7,8 39:2 163:20 167:23 <b>simulated</b> 39:5 176:11 213:7 <b>simulates</b> 32:24 <b>simulating</b> 9:17 18:18 20:17 166:5 <b>simulation</b> 10:4 16:13 17:1 19:9,25 20:22 27:5,16,19 31:5 32:19 35:25 37:19 39:11 40:18 66:25 67:7 70:24 71:6,10 72:2 104:12 114:7 115:9 116:20 128:5 152:10 153:19 153:23 154:4	155:13 159:14 161:2 163:17 163:25 164:16 167:19 173:3 173:25 175:17 176:6,7,9 181:22 184:24 187:25 190:15 190:23 191:9 191:22 202:20 202:22,22 203:15,23,24 209:13,16,24 210:19 213:7 218:6 219:23 219:24 220:6 229:25 231:16 231:17,25 232:4,7,19 <b>simulations</b> 15:21 68:24 115:19 153:14 154:10 172:4 172:22 175:3 202:15,17 <b>simulator</b> 67:14 116:21 154:22 158:21 <b>single</b> 41:2,6 <b>sir</b> 7:23 12:17 14:13 42:20 50:16 54:1 67:15 70:7 71:3,12 72:4 74:8 79:25	87:25 92:11 93:15 95:5 98:18 110:6 112:10 121:5 137:19 151:4 171:8 177:16 177:16 179:12 183:21 184:17 185:11 188:2 193:10 197:5 199:18 208:7 220:5 232:2 <b>sit</b> 16:2 44:10 44:17 55:6 149:3 165:6 166:25 167:9 194:11 196:8 197:4 <b>site</b> 76:5 <b>sitting</b> 44:15 88:14 136:19 136:25 143:19 143:22 147:12 169:8 182:20 200:16 218:3 <b>situation</b> 21:21 30:24 31:1,4 34:11,13 40:11 121:9 125:18 135:10 161:15 164:22 167:19 167:24 197:3 <b>situations</b> 42:5 46:7 94:8 165:1,2
---	---	--	--

[six - spring]

Page 51

<b>six</b> 139:2 <b>size</b> 16:18 17:22 58:17 86:22 96:17,24 98:22 99:11 100:23 102:9 140:1 202:5,6 202:16,18,19 202:23 225:2 227:18,24 <b>sizes</b> 97:22 <b>skipped</b> 94:19 <b>sky</b> 123:1 126:9 <b>slant</b> 228:21 <b>slide</b> 86:11 123:21 146:10 222:5 <b>slight</b> 99:13 101:12 <b>slightly</b> 24:7 77:24 78:1 94:4 96:10 98:1,5 101:5 119:2 228:22 <b>slopes</b> 17:18 <b>slow</b> 113:11 192:4 <b>slowing</b> 91:19 <b>small</b> 15:17 67:8 170:21 <b>smart</b> 31:5 <b>snyder</b> 2:6 <b>society</b> 208:23 <b>soft</b> 92:3,7	<b>software</b> 8:6 13:16 22:16 42:12,22 209:16 213:10 213:11,13 <b>solely</b> 110:2 221:19,20 234:14 <b>solve</b> 112:20 <b>somebody</b> 54:21 134:6 186:7 <b>somebody's</b> 9:23 <b>somewhat</b> 35:3 178:20 <b>sophisticated</b> 157:11 210:18 <b>sorry</b> 4:16 12:4 12:10 18:23 20:19 35:24 37:11 43:2 62:17 63:17 103:16 105:11 137:21 142:9 151:1 167:5 171:2 177:19 191:6,8 192:2 202:10 206:16 208:11 220:4 <b>sort</b> 19:4 83:19 141:22 <b>sound</b> 70:4 101:20	<b>sounds</b> 166:7 <b>source</b> 109:18 119:15 130:3 130:13 <b>sources</b> 131:4 167:11 188:13 188:17 <b>southeast</b> 237:19 <b>space</b> 135:24 136:24 195:1,8 195:12,14,23 196:17 223:1 <b>spacers</b> 229:6 <b>spare</b> 87:14,22 88:8 184:9 <b>speaker</b> 105:12 <b>speaking</b> 45:15 88:21 150:11 189:10 <b>specific</b> 42:18 44:11 55:5 77:13 93:19,25 106:12 129:2 146:2,20 179:23 193:15 196:21 197:3 197:21,25 203:19 234:18 236:12 <b>specifically</b> 22:2 44:13 45:9 48:10 165:2 199:12 229:5 234:4	<b>specifications</b> 53:14 <b>specifics</b> 198:4 <b>specs</b> 95:11 101:24 128:15 181:16 <b>speed</b> 17:8 19:15 20:15 22:4,5,6 25:14 25:16 68:17 76:4 108:15,16 108:20,20,21 108:22,23 109:4,6,7,14,17 109:19,21 111:6,11 155:5 155:5,21 169:20 193:2 196:15 197:10 <b>speedometer</b> 109:4 <b>speeds</b> 16:23 19:18,19,23,23 20:1,24,25 110:24 155:11 176:16 186:16 193:5 196:6,10 <b>spent</b> 67:6,14 <b>spit</b> 104:18 <b>split</b> 48:20 <b>spoke</b> 4:14 20:19 <b>spreads</b> 156:18 <b>spring</b> 24:11,16 160:6 185:20
---	--	--	---

185:21,22 <b>springiness</b> 178:24 <b>springs</b> 24:15 <b>sprung</b> 146:6 185:25 186:3,4 186:9 <b>staff</b> 14:19 15:22,23 41:13 52:20,23 55:2 72:25 127:18 <b>staging</b> 230:19 <b>stamped</b> 129:19 <b>stamping</b> 68:17 <b>stand</b> 148:24 165:8 223:12 <b>standard</b> 41:5 81:9 95:15 132:25 134:3 152:12 157:22 175:18,20 199:9,10,11 206:22 210:16 211:13,14 <b>standardized</b> 189:4 <b>standardly</b> 156:11 <b>standards</b> 141:4 <b>standing</b> 148:25 <b>standpoint</b> 96:4 219:20	229:18 <b>start</b> 5:10 10:12 16:16,19 17:6 29:16 70:22 94:22 176:12 197:1 207:9 <b>started</b> 143:10 143:10 153:25 193:8 218:1 220:12 <b>starting</b> 26:14 71:11 219:11 <b>starts</b> 105:5 117:17 175:21 <b>state</b> 234:9 235:4 <b>stated</b> 37:25 38:1 235:8 <b>statement</b> 133:11 145:12 195:3 197:19 238:12 <b>statements</b> 235:11 <b>states</b> 1:1 <b>static</b> 94:25 105:24,25 106:5,22 133:21 140:17 146:5,14,22,25 147:17,24 148:19 152:8,9 <b>statically</b> 143:8 144:17 147:4	<b>statute</b> 198:24 199:16 <b>statute's</b> 199:14 <b>stay</b> 14:18 36:9 68:16 122:9 166:10 <b>stayed</b> 14:23 <b>stenographic...</b> 235:7 <b>step</b> 19:4 <b>stick</b> 24:12 219:9,19 <b>sticking</b> 149:19 <b>sticks</b> 218:10 <b>stiffer</b> 232:9 <b>stiffness</b> 130:4 130:10,11,14 130:19 131:8 131:10,11,11 131:13,17 132:9 133:19 134:12 155:18 156:10 158:16 159:11 176:3 177:3 178:13 178:17,25 179:18,22 180:3,20 187:3 187:5,7,9 188:6,13,21 189:24 206:8 206:18,25 207:12 208:1 208:19 209:12	209:22,24 210:5 229:24 230:4,11 231:16 <b>stiffnesses</b> 130:25 <b>stimulate</b> 37:8 <b>stimulator</b> 155:4 <b>stock</b> 3:23 27:17 36:9 37:19,23 39:17 40:6,18,21,24 86:2,10 87:3 96:2,17 97:19 97:25 98:2,4,8 98:24 99:14 116:15,24 117:22 118:4 120:16,16,18 123:10 124:18 125:1,13,15 126:2,18 137:1 137:14,17 138:19 140:1,3 148:17 153:20 161:2,5 168:15 181:13 202:3 202:18 227:16 227:20 <b>stop</b> 121:23 <b>stopped</b> 127:3 168:18 <b>stopping</b> 173:9
---	---	---	---

<b>storage</b> 183:24 184:1,4	165:23 166:4	<b>sufficient</b> 30:18	44:17,22 45:8
<b>straight</b> 29:19 208:3	<b>stuff</b> 11:11 15:24 60:2	<b>suggested</b> 212:1	45:9 46:4 49:2 49:23 50:20
<b>straightened</b> 12:9	61:1,23 75:25	<b>suite</b> 2:8,16 237:18	54:14 55:14 56:8 59:7 60:3
<b>straightforward</b> 15:4 148:7	163:11 170:2 180:25	<b>summary</b> 225:15	60:12 63:3,9 64:15 69:18
166:19 210:16	<b>style</b> 49:13	<b>supervision</b> 235:13	73:10,17 75:17 75:18 76:13,14
<b>strange</b> 124:14	<b>subcontractor</b> 234:10,15	<b>supplemental</b> 238:15	78:20 79:17 80:17 81:3
<b>strength</b> 133:13,19	<b>subject</b> 37:21 62:25 86:13	<b>supply</b> 97:6	84:17 85:22 87:1,10,12,23
134:23 135:25	87:24 97:16,18	<b>support</b> 3:21 40:10 41:9	88:20 89:23 90:9,21 91:5,8
136:3 156:24	100:9,10	74:24 75:8,16 75:17 78:21	91:21 92:20 94:5,16,18
169:12,14,15	110:10 125:9	149:12,16,16 153:12 166:3	95:5,18,20 98:7 101:21
177:6,8,9	125:16 138:1	167:1,11 168:2 168:3 200:9	103:10 108:3,6 110:7 113:1,16
178:18,24	171:11 202:7	201:16,19,23 213:6	116:12 122:19 123:11 125:5
179:1 207:7	202:24 203:6 216:14 222:14	<b>supposed</b> 73:3 84:14 86:23	126:22 134:9 134:23 145:21
<b>strike</b> 28:2	224:19	91:15	149:18 152:5 154:20 164:15
<b>striking</b> 218:7	<b>subjects</b> 200:14	<b>sure</b> 6:2 8:19 9:14 10:1	167:7 172:2 175:1 178:4
<b>strong</b> 136:13	<b>submitted</b> 3:6 234:21,22	11:23 13:4 14:11 15:5	191:12 197:9 199:21 201:1
<b>stronger</b> 219:16,16	236:5,6	18:24 20:21 22:14 24:19	201:17 210:7 211:16 223:11
<b>struck</b> 204:20 218:7	<b>subscribe</b> 200:22	26:5 27:3 28:23 31:6	229:22 230:6
<b>structure</b> 26:22 28:3,3 34:21	<b>subscribed</b> 239:21	40:9 41:12 42:10,25 43:22	
36:15,18	<b>substance</b> 238:10		
<b>structures</b> 35:3 149:13,16	<b>subtracting</b> 225:10		
157:17	<b>subtle</b> 21:12		
<b>stuck</b> 222:1	<b>subtract</b> 139:22,25		
<b>studies</b> 166:2			
<b>study</b> 95:22 121:3 161:16			

[surface - tell]

Page 54

<b>surface</b> 156:14	67:19,21 68:7	91:3,17 96:13	<b>targets</b> 193:6
<b>surfaces</b> 157:5	70:9 82:6 90:7	96:14 98:8	<b>teaches</b> 168:24
<b>surprise</b> 174:24	113:12 115:24	106:24 108:23	<b>team</b> 193:24
<b>surprised</b>	131:14 134:6	109:5,8 110:2	194:18
166:16	138:8,11	117:14 119:1	<b>technical</b> 52:22
<b>surrounding</b>	139:24 146:9	123:5 125:11	<b>technically</b>
14:7	146:25 156:15	129:14,22	91:15 132:3
<b>survivability</b>	159:1 160:23	131:8 136:23	214:15,19
135:23	173:10,11,15	141:3 145:17	219:8
<b>surviving</b> 1:5	183:2 189:20	148:19 153:7	<b>technician</b> 2:20
<b>suspect</b> 26:14	199:20 200:25	153:15 155:16	4:4,20 11:20
28:9,17 33:16	226:1 227:14	178:25 179:1	11:24 12:2
37:9 229:9,12	<b>taken</b> 28:21	185:3 194:1	70:13,16 99:21
<b>sv</b> 28:1	60:24 70:15	196:3 203:21	99:24 100:2
<b>swapping</b> 72:8	116:4 149:7	203:22 204:9	113:20 116:2,5
<b>swear</b> 4:21	173:19 201:7	212:6	173:17,20
<b>sworn</b> 5:2	227:17	<b>talks</b> 41:21,22	201:5,8 223:16
235:9 239:21	<b>takes</b> 154:3	<b>tall</b> 134:6	223:19 233:9
<b>system</b> 6:22	207:9	<b>tallahassee</b>	<b>technicians</b>
109:17	<b>talk</b> 14:21	1:15 4:1	101:15
<b>t</b>	15:23 37:15	<b>taller</b> 97:2 98:1	<b>technique</b>
<b>t</b> 3:5 65:18	39:24 42:24	203:4	212:15,20,23
235:1,1	54:21 56:13	<b>tallies</b> 183:8	<b>techniques</b>
<b>tab</b> 183:9	85:7 91:21	<b>tap</b> 135:1	212:16,20
<b>table</b> 138:9	105:2 135:11	<b>tape</b> 102:6	<b>tecum</b> 3:11
<b>tail</b> 216:19	198:3	106:17,20	<b>tedra</b> 2:4 4:12
<b>tailgate</b> 33:5	<b>talked</b> 153:8	227:9	4:16 178:10
122:3 123:24	155:19 161:4	<b>tapes</b> 100:25	237:1,1
124:1 140:19	191:1 200:11	<b>target</b> 47:20	<b>telephone</b> 52:3
192:9 205:17	209:25	195:15	54:5,8
216:12,19	<b>talking</b> 31:11	<b>targeted</b>	<b>tell</b> 19:14,14,15
217:25	39:1,3 40:13	193:15,15,17	20:24 35:17,18
<b>take</b> 24:14	50:1 70:21	<b>targeting</b> 193:5	37:5 38:15
47:12 51:7	78:6 79:22	193:20	39:18 44:21
63:11,15,19	89:13 90:2		52:13 56:21

[tell - think]

Page 55

59:4 60:10	172:25 173:1,4	<b>thanks</b> 18:2	18:14 19:11
62:9,11 70:24	188:20 189:19	24:22 63:9	20:19 21:17
75:20 84:25	207:21 230:19	72:20 88:20	22:20 24:24
88:14 112:15	<b>testified</b> 44:23	93:5 103:15	27:11,21 29:13
124:23 128:24	46:24 174:8	201:10	32:9 33:11,12
157:19 161:10	191:3	<b>theory</b> 229:15	33:14 34:6,21
161:11 162:16	<b>testify</b> 27:19	<b>thereto</b> 235:11	35:10,22 41:24
169:11,12	<b>testimony</b> 3:14	<b>thickness</b> 232:8	42:16 43:12
179:7 184:11	11:2 43:7,16	<b>thing</b> 32:17	44:20 48:21
200:18 232:24	43:20 46:22,22	69:4 104:24	49:3,3,4,7,16
235:9	47:2 50:2	113:8 118:24	49:19 57:1,21
<b>telling</b> 8:12	85:13 165:10	122:6 156:1	58:3 63:23
21:19 101:10	200:4 235:15	162:18 171:16	64:17 66:4,6
158:11,12	238:3,11	173:4,5 180:18	68:18 69:21,21
162:8 182:6	<b>testing</b> 172:16	184:8 204:9,17	73:12 75:4
<b>tend</b> 55:7,7	189:11,17,24	222:19 229:1	81:1 87:15,16
164:19 165:16	230:16	<b>things</b> 5:24 6:2	87:16 90:24
172:14	<b>tests</b> 189:21	7:9 16:15	91:1 93:2
<b>tends</b> 164:20	<b>thank</b> 5:6,9	17:19,24 24:19	95:13 97:15
<b>term</b> 80:16	12:4 13:12	29:10,10 35:18	99:9 101:3,8
89:19,20 90:15	60:3 63:16,22	35:20 51:11	107:24 109:1,2
90:16,19 94:2	66:11 70:11,18	57:8 64:24	112:4,21
94:5 109:15	71:25 76:23	68:17 82:19	122:18 132:3
136:17 150:14	77:18 90:9	90:2 93:9,13	137:11 138:5,8
174:3,18	92:23 93:4	100:16 109:11	142:16 143:2
<b>terms</b> 93:17	98:9 103:11	120:15 121:12	144:8,12,12
94:16 177:21	116:1 139:14	122:17 130:20	145:4,7,7
234:15	173:16,22	137:7,9 146:12	147:1 154:5
<b>terrible</b> 197:7	178:5,10	149:18 159:17	158:11 160:11
<b>terry</b> 230:6	191:24 193:22	162:1 165:17	174:2 177:18
231:2	195:16,18	168:12 171:24	177:19,23
<b>test</b> 8:21 18:10	201:4,24	175:12 177:23	179:5 183:9
19:18 62:13	222:11 223:21	186:15,25	185:21 188:12
171:6,10,20	233:3	<b>think</b> 5:7 14:2	194:2,4,15,15
172:4,13,20,23		14:3,24 18:13	194:17,21,25

[think - tool]

Page 56

195:4,7,7,11,24	<b>thread</b> 78:17	100:2,3 113:20	203:5 218:4
196:12 198:13	<b>three</b> 9:13 48:8	116:2,5 141:18	224:7,18 225:1
201:15,22	48:11 49:3,19	148:6 163:6	226:1,13 228:5
202:10 205:13	49:20,21,22	164:2 171:20	<b>title</b> 75:16
208:15 215:14	109:16 122:16	173:17,20	209:3
221:13 222:5	151:21 152:21	182:5 189:6	<b>today</b> 5:18 13:1
225:5 228:25	152:21 188:6	201:5,8 202:24	13:10 44:10
230:9 231:4	<b>threshold</b>	223:16,19,22	68:15 82:1
233:5	196:15	233:10 234:19	166:25 167:10
<b>thinking</b> 44:16	<b>throw</b> 73:2	236:12 237:14	197:4,6 200:5
77:8 134:21	<b>tight</b> 32:14	<b>times</b> 5:7 17:4	223:22
154:7 196:8,13	170:25 211:1	17:18 29:15	<b>today's</b> 50:18
200:17 229:7	<b>time</b> 4:6 6:16	68:19 163:22	<b>together</b> 17:2
<b>thinks</b> 108:24	7:10,10 9:14	167:18 224:10	24:1,12 93:9
124:3	11:24 12:2	225:12	106:21 140:20
<b>third</b> 13:14,15	14:16 16:6	<b>tire</b> 16:18 87:14	142:8,21
171:4 206:16	34:16 43:3	87:22 88:8	143:19 144:17
206:17 225:22	44:4,8,23	96:10,17 97:22	147:4 222:1
226:21 227:12	45:16 46:20	98:22 99:5,6,9	<b>told</b> 33:15
228:4	53:18,19 54:15	99:11 100:23	34:15 58:10
<b>thought</b> 7:2	55:1,7,14,20,20	102:8 140:1,3	153:24 154:14
8:14 13:2	55:24 57:11	149:22 184:9	169:14 177:11
26:24 56:19	58:7 59:25	202:3,6,16,18	<b>tonight</b> 92:21
58:7 61:2	64:10,14,16,21	202:19,23	<b>tonneau</b> 89:10
67:24 69:16	65:5,12 66:9	227:18,24	89:14,18,18
70:21 76:10	67:2,6,13 68:2	<b>tires</b> 80:14	92:25
88:17 90:4	69:2,7,10	85:25 86:1,2	<b>took</b> 61:3,13
103:8 104:23	70:13,16 73:7	86:10,10,20,21	69:21 83:16,16
119:18 144:5	75:21,21 78:15	86:22 87:3,6	<b>tool</b> 25:17
151:1 194:5	78:18 80:21	96:5,24 97:1,7	29:21 30:10,25
208:16 226:17	82:2,12,21,25	97:9,13,17,25	31:16,24 32:10
226:18	83:4,18,23	98:6,23,23	38:5 40:15
<b>thousands</b>	84:2 93:14,21	99:14 138:10	67:11 107:5
84:12	94:6,7,7,10,13	138:11,16,19	115:21 159:5
	94:14 99:24	140:4 149:19	164:16 170:8



[tool - trying]

Page 57

172:1 176:15 184:6 <b>tools</b> 29:11,22 31:17 39:19 40:4,20 116:22 164:1 183:25 184:3,4 <b>top</b> 44:7 49:1 61:16 67:15 70:3 81:6 85:24 86:6 103:1 104:6 122:12 136:18 145:25 148:16 179:7,8 196:1 196:3 206:16 217:10,17 232:24 <b>topics</b> 200:3 <b>torn</b> 26:20 36:22 78:23,24 79:4,12 150:3 <b>total</b> 24:1 67:9 70:3 82:11 129:10,21 185:19,24 224:6 225:4,6 226:7 <b>totaling</b> 69:25 <b>totally</b> 159:21 <b>touch</b> 106:4 <b>touched</b> 83:18 106:3 200:13 <b>tough</b> 21:10	<b>tow</b> 121:13,15 122:20 123:4 123:13,16 124:5,19 125:19,21 126:1,6,19 146:12 217:3 <b>towards</b> 173:13 182:22 <b>traffic</b> 41:16,17 <b>training</b> 13:8 13:16,19,21 14:1,7,9,15 15:6 41:25 42:18 121:4 152:6 <b>transcript</b> 234:19 235:7 236:3,4 237:7 237:12,14 238:3 <b>transcripts</b> 234:19,23 <b>transmission</b> 108:20,22 109:10,18 <b>travel</b> 56:16 64:16,20 66:10 69:5 <b>traveled</b> 56:20 <b>tread</b> 87:6 217:12 <b>tree</b> 171:15,16 <b>trend</b> 232:14 232:16,20,22	233:1 <b>trial</b> 11:1 43:16 43:20,24 44:2 165:3 <b>trick</b> 33:10 <b>tricking</b> 33:11 <b>tried</b> 48:5 167:17 191:12 <b>tries</b> 156:15 <b>trim</b> 96:13 <b>trip</b> 64:8 <b>trips</b> 68:25,25 <b>truck</b> 17:8,9 19:25 20:8 23:6 25:15,15 25:22,23 26:4 26:16 27:10 33:15,25 36:9 38:6 57:3 58:3 86:17,19 89:2 91:18 96:8,10 96:12,14,15,23 97:1,4,16,18,21 97:25 98:2,5 108:24 109:14 114:13 115:15 120:16 121:13 121:14 122:14 123:10,10,25 125:15,16 126:8 127:3 128:19 136:20 136:20 138:5 138:17 140:18 140:21,25	143:11,18,21 146:10,18,23 147:3,5 156:21 168:18 169:19 187:17 191:14 202:18 215:25 216:1,2,3 217:14,15 222:20 <b>truck's</b> 104:8 217:11 <b>trucks</b> 80:10 97:13 <b>true</b> 227:20 231:15 232:15 233:1 234:20 235:13 236:4,6 <b>trunk</b> 148:11 <b>trust</b> 72:25 <b>truth</b> 235:9,9 235:10 <b>try</b> 9:24 14:18 18:4,11,22 24:13,20 27:22 31:8 33:16 93:9 116:23 137:8 145:15 151:9 158:22 158:23 162:1 165:22 166:10 178:5 <b>trying</b> 9:18 13:10 17:14 26:15 27:1 28:15 36:5
--	---	---	--



[trying - understand]

Page 58

37:14 38:24	<b>tweak</b> 21:24	211:7,18 212:6	<b>undamaged</b>
39:21,23 45:1	<b>tweaking</b> 22:23	212:8 213:18	222:13,15,20
54:12 63:10	<b>twist</b> 39:14	227:3	222:25 223:3
68:16 83:15,24	<b>twisted</b> 162:17	<b>type</b> 15:6 16:12	<b>under</b> 7:8 39:3
86:16,18 87:1	162:24 163:4	34:13 40:11,16	40:17 76:16
90:2 91:19	<b>twisting</b> 145:8	52:20 56:10	77:20,22 78:7
99:15 103:16	162:5,11,12	61:1,22 110:21	80:2 90:10
113:7,9 119:25	163:10	118:19,20	106:23 110:1
120:6,7 132:17	<b>two</b> 16:21	120:7 128:9	120:17 121:17
136:22 140:12	23:21 25:12	133:1 151:17	135:9 137:22
144:4 145:22	26:13 27:24	159:10,13	208:1 226:24
146:4 148:23	28:1 29:3,3	<b>types</b> 11:3	229:25 235:12
155:3,6 157:4	41:12 53:23	<b>typewriting</b>	236:11
159:16 160:22	55:16,17 57:21	235:12	<b>underneath</b>
161:6,7 165:23	67:3 71:23	<b>typical</b> 129:12	86:17 121:25
174:22 180:23	72:2,3,4 73:8	<b>typically</b>	122:1 123:15
186:18,19	76:18 91:3	131:12 176:12	123:19,21
193:18 196:20	94:19 97:13,22	<b>typo</b> 74:5,7	124:10 126:7
204:2 209:21	100:6,16	76:21 77:16	<b>underreport</b>
210:14,15,18	102:13 103:23	91:23 107:15	231:13
215:15 219:21	106:8 114:10	107:25	<b>underride</b>
<b>tune</b> 17:25	114:15 116:22	<b>typos</b> 76:15	161:10
32:24,25 191:9	120:25 130:20	<b>u</b>	<b>undersigned</b>
<b>tuned</b> 23:7	131:3 137:9	<b>u3000-49</b> 92:12	238:2
180:16,18	140:20 141:2	<b>ultimately</b>	<b>understand</b>
<b>tuning</b> 17:11	146:17,20	189:19 207:16	6:21 7:14 8:20
23:4 32:19,23	147:24 149:18	<b>uncertainty</b>	10:24 16:11,11
176:17,18,21	149:23 151:21	28:15	19:11 22:14
193:12	151:22,25	<b>unclear</b> 167:14	23:10,17 36:2
<b>turn</b> 32:2 55:18	152:2 169:11	<b>uncover</b> 194:18	48:7 49:22
157:6 175:10	169:13 170:17	<b>uncrushable</b>	63:15 72:19
<b>turned</b> 60:18	170:25 175:7	135:6	85:11 87:1
103:15	180:21 186:20	<b>uncrushed</b>	90:20,25 91:18
<b>turning</b> 85:21	204:5 205:3	140:23 222:4,7	95:3 101:21
108:25 109:1,3	207:6 210:1		108:6 112:17

115:22 123:12	<b>update</b> 14:18	163:22,24	121:1 127:12
125:24 126:16	71:16	164:3,7,10,20	128:20 130:9
126:21 140:12	<b>updates</b> 15:11	164:21,23	130:11 131:1
145:9,13,14	<b>updating</b> 15:15	165:9,22	131:18 136:24
153:2 155:2	<b>uploaded</b>	166:19 167:23	142:21 143:20
162:1 175:24	234:24	168:25 169:1	143:22 144:19
184:18 197:23	<b>upper</b> 209:6	169:10 170:17	147:14 151:21
203:11 205:6	<b>upset</b> 123:9	174:22 176:15	151:24 154:21
208:10 219:21	<b>usable</b> 150:15	177:12 179:4	154:23 157:10
220:1	<b>use</b> 14:15,17	187:16 188:11	159:1,4 161:24
<b>understanding</b>	15:5,9,20	188:17,23	163:19,22
35:21 71:3	16:21 18:4	189:7,23	164:2,14 165:3
83:21,25 90:21	19:2 20:14	191:11,20,23	165:5,20
103:13 122:5	21:8 22:15	192:10,11	171:17 172:1
124:11 132:4	23:19 25:10,10	193:1 199:5	174:3 175:2
153:18 159:9	27:5 28:15,22	202:17 204:16	179:25 180:3
188:3,5 218:24	29:6,14,21,22	209:8,22	183:22 187:4
<b>understood</b>	30:19 33:17,19	210:12,23,24	188:12 189:25
98:9 103:18	37:8 39:22,25	212:15,19,22	190:3,6 191:2
134:10 190:14	40:14,15 41:10	216:10 218:6,7	191:21 192:5,5
213:5 218:5	42:14,15 60:25	238:14	192:6,10
<b>unfortunately</b>	61:17,22 62:14	<b>used</b> 15:8 18:8	202:19,23
113:8	81:9 93:22	18:15 20:9	203:24 205:24
<b>unibody</b> 26:19	94:7 95:12,17	27:25 28:8,24	207:20 209:12
33:9 34:18	95:20 106:12	29:10 39:19	209:15,18,19
36:20,21 79:12	109:15 110:20	42:4,9 62:16	210:9 211:7
150:2	111:25 113:14	62:18 79:23	212:7 214:17
<b>united</b> 1:1	115:3,22	81:3,23,24	224:23 227:6
<b>universal</b> 39:25	116:13,23	94:15,23 95:7	232:4,25
<b>unquote</b> 117:22	119:5 128:4,9	97:16 98:19	<b>useful</b> 36:1
<b>unremarkable</b>	130:4,7 146:7	100:21 106:18	<b>useless</b> 34:2
78:2,11	151:9,22	107:6 108:19	<b>user</b> 13:16,19
<b>unusual</b> 134:21	152:12 155:18	110:5,8,18	181:15
<b>unzip</b> 26:20	156:25 160:25	111:23 112:20	<b>uses</b> 20:16 42:8
	161:13,14,16	115:8 120:8,16	93:17 153:17

[uses - vehicle]

Page 60

157:2 177:15 188:20 218:8 <b>using</b> 9:21 13:22 14:24 15:2,16 16:5 18:18 19:7 26:6,8 27:17 28:1 39:1 40:18 42:20 61:12 69:22 70:25 80:21 82:3 90:22 94:3 95:10 100:8,10 101:14,24 113:22 114:4 114:15,17 118:8,10,15 121:3,3 126:24 128:5 131:24 132:13 136:1 141:3 142:14 143:4 147:16 147:25 153:13 154:8 157:15 159:3,5,14 160:9,10 162:14 165:13 165:13 166:4 166:10,22 167:12 169:6 170:4,25 176:9 176:20 190:8 191:10 206:8 210:17 211:18	221:24 <b>usually</b> 47:8 157:24 164:9 164:10  <b>v</b>  <b>v</b> 17:9 22:6 25:15 90:12,16 90:16,18,20,22 91:7,7,9 108:12 110:22 110:24 111:14 111:18 115:2 155:24 174:21 <b>v1</b> 205:22 <b>vac</b> 134:25 <b>vacuum</b> 82:19 84:4 <b>vagaries</b> 170:14 <b>vague</b> 134:17 167:14 197:15 200:7 203:17 <b>valid</b> 27:21 30:25 200:21 <b>validate</b> 41:10 62:24 <b>validated</b> 63:1 <b>validating</b> 160:13 161:23 <b>value</b> 86:21 119:18,20 120:13 151:10 151:11 175:1,4 175:9,10,11,14 175:15,16,18	175:20 176:11 176:12 177:12 180:10 190:18 204:8,12,15 205:7,14,17,19 207:15 208:5,5 212:11 214:20 220:16 229:25 232:8,11 <b>values</b> 25:12 108:9 130:12 156:17,24 174:9 187:15 188:21 193:2 193:16 206:3 206:17 207:18 208:18 209:19 210:4,15,21,24 211:19 213:22 226:23 231:3,4 231:9,12 232:1 232:25 <b>variability</b> 86:24 88:15 101:12 <b>variables</b> 170:12,15 171:11,11,19 <b>variation</b> 158:3 194:10 <b>variations</b> 193:12 <b>various</b> 7:17 230:12	<b>vary</b> 155:22 <b>varying</b> 99:2 <b>vast</b> 16:7 230:17 <b>vectors</b> 17:23 <b>vehicle</b> 3:23 9:7 9:19 16:16,17 21:13 27:1,2 33:8 34:22 36:7,7,12,12 44:6,9,12,24,25 45:20 56:4,7 56:17,25 58:1 58:12 60:6,9,9 60:13 65:16,25 77:3,5,10 78:5 78:6,6,14 79:21 83:2,18 84:9 86:3,13 88:7,9 90:4 92:6 95:13,16 95:18,21,22 96:4,17 98:23 98:25 99:2 105:6 108:16 110:8,10 117:3 118:4,16 121:18 125:15 127:16 130:22 131:9 133:13 134:23 136:7 138:1 142:5 150:12,19 152:25 155:15 156:15 157:17
---	--	---	---

[vehicle - wall]

Page 61

159:12 160:7 162:5,10,20 163:5 168:15 169:9,13 175:5 175:5,5 177:14 178:18 181:4 183:4 185:14 185:15,24 186:9 187:11 192:17,18 193:23 195:12 195:13,15,21 196:1 198:12 198:16,25 202:24 203:6 206:9,25 207:10,13,24 208:21 213:20 214:4 215:2 216:14 218:3,6 218:7,9 221:12 222:4,6,7,9 225:5,24 228:8 228:21 <b>vehicle's</b> 162:10 169:8 <b>vehicles</b> 16:21 17:2,22 19:1 19:14,15,16 20:16 21:6 23:2,16,21 24:10 26:9 28:1,2 30:22 35:2 36:8 41:22 45:24	46:5 56:9 57:2 57:13 64:8,23 65:20 66:3,10 68:25 76:18 77:2 81:14 85:20 91:4 94:23 95:11 100:7 103:23 105:17 106:2,4 110:3 112:16 126:15 133:16 137:2,14,17 143:4 144:17 147:9 157:1 167:20,24 169:11,13 172:17 175:7,8 175:17 177:6,7 178:22 180:21 181:13 183:12 195:2,9,25 196:24 226:25 230:12 <b>velocities</b> 174:10,15 <b>velocity</b> 17:23 174:16,21 <b>venn</b> 212:16 <b>verbatim</b> 234:12 <b>verified</b> 95:9 100:6 <b>verify</b> 13:10 95:12	<b>veritext</b> 234:10 234:16 236:3,5 236:11 237:10 237:17 <b>veritext.com</b> 236:10 237:19 <b>versa</b> 231:23 <b>version</b> 6:4,22 6:24 12:21 18:14 72:23,25 73:2 74:2,4 82:10 97:20 124:18 125:13 179:3 202:23 <b>versions</b> 173:7 179:14 <b>versus</b> 46:14 86:10 97:20 106:5 <b>vice</b> 231:23 <b>video</b> 2:20 4:4 4:20 11:20,24 12:2 64:12 70:13,16 89:25 99:21,24 100:2 113:20 116:2,5 147:11 173:17 173:20 201:5,8 223:16,19 233:9 <b>videotape</b> 1:13 4:7 233:10 <b>videotaped</b> 3:10	<b>view</b> 186:6 221:8 222:18 <b>vin</b> 95:10,12,17 95:19,20 <b>violated</b> 198:24 199:3,9 <b>virtual</b> 2:20 56:4,7 <b>virtually</b> 157:13 <b>visible</b> 60:13 <b>visit</b> 69:5,13 76:5,11 <b>visited</b> 65:20 69:8,11 <b>visual</b> 56:23,24 57:1,4 <b>visualization</b> 21:18 214:24 218:17 <b>visualize</b> 21:15 221:2 <b>visually</b> 64:23 <b>vitae</b> 3:13 <b>vital</b> 53:13 <b>vs</b> 1:8 22:17 25:6,8 108:8 152:14,15 <b>w</b> <b>w</b> 2:7 <b>wait</b> 173:9 <b>waiting</b> 63:22 200:17 <b>wall</b> 23:23
--	--	---	--

[want - went]

Page 62

<b>want</b> 10:2 20:7 21:14,15,15 23:19 29:7 33:19 44:1 48:7 51:10 56:12 59:25 63:12 66:13 74:19 75:5 76:14 84:14 93:20 98:7 100:15 101:21 103:12 104:4 107:22 110:7 114:20,21 122:8 123:11 124:14 128:17 129:9,16 134:5 134:9 135:4 136:21 138:15 152:20 164:16 164:19 198:2 198:19 211:25 218:15 226:1 229:19 <b>wanted</b> 5:10 17:5 30:21 58:24 63:2 72:15 91:5 94:16 103:8 159:14 161:12 171:18 187:19 187:19,24 188:11 211:16 <b>wanting</b> 113:5	<b>wants</b> 8:9 24:16 34:5 91:14 137:7 154:12,18 159:24 163:13 187:16 <b>waste</b> 59:25 <b>watch</b> 77:18 <b>way</b> 8:13 13:15 13:15 15:13 21:11 25:3,7 26:18,19,20,20 27:5,22 32:22 32:25 34:10,14 35:22 40:9 41:8 44:25 47:8 51:23,25 53:4 56:15,16 64:20 67:5 79:7 84:19 88:2,9 91:2,20 94:12 95:15 96:20 100:7 101:1,1 102:9 104:14 112:22 116:16 124:6 125:15 134:4 134:11 135:2 145:8 154:11 157:15 160:2,5 171:14 178:21 181:10 186:6,7 194:13 196:1 196:17 198:2 207:7 210:25	211:9,14 212:3 212:11 213:24 214:1,6,14 229:12 <b>ways</b> 37:5 89:20 100:21 101:2 102:15 116:22 134:3 160:15 172:24 186:11,20 211:25 217:24 <b>we've</b> 5:7 38:21 47:16 67:19 80:20,21 92:22 99:18 106:6 147:8 153:8 155:19 194:21 196:11 200:11 201:15 203:14 209:25 213:2 <b>week</b> 9:4,4 72:4 81:10 <b>weekend</b> 6:14 6:14 7:13 9:6 192:16 <b>weigh</b> 83:17 <b>weighed</b> 82:25 83:2,5,14 87:15 88:24 89:3 93:1,3 110:15 <b>weighing</b> 87:20 <b>weight</b> 80:3,7 82:9,12,14,20 84:5 87:13	88:7,21,22 89:17 110:8 127:20,24,25 128:2,21 151:12 152:16 182:17,22,24 183:11,12,13 183:14,14 184:5,9,20 185:14,24 <b>weights</b> 80:12 87:21 90:4 110:12 113:24 151:12 181:16 181:18 183:3 183:10,12,23 183:24,25 185:13,19 186:17 <b>weinberg</b> 2:13 <b>welcome</b> 224:1 <b>welds</b> 34:20 <b>wells</b> 26:19 <b>went</b> 14:4,8 15:3 34:19,19 62:10 65:15 69:17 71:21 72:10,12 121:13 127:4 140:10 142:5 142:18 181:10 217:15,15 229:4,19 232:9 232:13
---	---	--	---

[whatnot - yeah]

Page 63

<b>whatnot</b> 152:16	<b>wooten</b> 47:25	<b>work's</b> 68:21	<b>wrote</b> 80:11
<b>wheel</b> 9:24,25	<b>word</b> 23:19	<b>worked</b> 23:25	91:20 154:7
80:15,19	89:9 93:6	44:11 48:14,22	<b>x</b>
108:19,21,23	97:20 118:20	52:12 53:1	<b>x</b> 3:1,5
109:6,7,14,20	157:10 176:8	55:14 124:4	<b>y</b>
182:21 184:15	199:6 203:5	<b>working</b> 15:16	<b>yeah</b> 5:25 7:3,5
<b>wheeler</b> 2:13	208:1 228:20	48:25 49:10,11	8:24 11:9
45:20,21,22	<b>words</b> 28:12	49:16,20 52:8	12:10 19:7
<b>wheels</b> 108:24	30:12 45:3	54:19 73:2	25:23 29:3
182:8,8	59:4 78:3 85:3	89:24	32:13 54:3
<b>whoops</b> 150:20	92:4 97:7	<b>works</b> 113:17	57:4,7,11
<b>wide</b> 217:13	115:16 123:23	156:8 170:7	58:16,18 65:4
<b>wild</b> 87:20	143:12 161:8	228:24	65:9 66:12,14
<b>window</b> 170:21	170:17 204:25	<b>world</b> 106:21	67:11,20 68:20
170:23	217:9 231:7	147:9 172:11	71:7 78:22,25
<b>wires</b> 177:20	<b>work</b> 7:9 10:10	<b>worlds</b> 73:9	79:20 80:18
<b>withheld</b> 11:4,9	22:9 24:13	<b>worried</b> 26:23	81:9 82:20,23
11:17	32:15 33:4	73:6,7	83:3,15 86:15
<b>witness</b> 4:1,21	38:23 39:5	<b>worry</b> 208:12	87:5 89:7,12
12:8 70:11	43:18,22,23	<b>worth</b> 186:11	91:13 93:11
99:20 113:16	46:13 47:7	<b>wreck</b> 167:25	97:11,15 98:13
113:18 116:1	50:14 51:1,10	<b>wrench</b> 31:25	98:15 104:16
173:8,14,16	53:10,10,12	32:3,4,5,10,13	104:20 105:11
201:3 208:15	54:16 55:21	35:7	106:7 107:15
223:24 233:8	56:2,5,13	<b>wrenches</b> 32:2	108:3 109:16
236:7	60:21,22 61:18	35:9	109:16,23
<b>witnesses</b> 12:5	67:9 68:9,14	<b>write</b> 91:2	110:15 111:18
234:22	69:17 72:24	144:20	112:13,25
<b>wondered</b>	76:17 80:10	<b>written</b> 37:1	113:7 119:22
94:15	81:24 92:22	93:15	120:14,15,22
<b>wonderful</b>	149:2 154:3,18	<b>wrong</b> 68:22	124:12 127:15
29:21	155:14 156:4	114:6 129:15	129:17 132:23
<b>wondering</b>	160:13,14	133:8 177:21	135:7,19,19
106:11	165:15 172:17	177:25 178:7	137:11,15
	194:8 211:4	191:24 224:23	

[yeah - zoom]

Page 64

138:10 139:3,7	<b>z</b>
139:7,11,19	<b>zero</b> 94:6,7,10
140:15,17	94:13 111:6
148:6 150:1,11	213:22,25
153:16 154:2	214:15,20
161:7 171:9	<b>zoom</b> 56:10
174:4 175:24	235:8
176:5 177:5	
180:25 183:10	
191:8 192:1,3	
193:17 194:10	
195:17 205:23	
207:22 209:5	
215:8,10 217:5	
219:4,21 221:6	
221:7,10 222:3	
222:7 225:3,12	
225:13 228:3,4	
<b>year</b> 61:4 62:22	
95:21 97:12	
127:16 168:17	
179:6	
<b>year's</b> 96:23	
<b>years</b> 13:23,24	
14:12 15:2	
42:20 46:19	
80:22 150:6	
165:14,15	
166:20 170:3	
189:2 230:8	
<b>yelled</b> 190:5	
<b>yep</b> 30:15	
37:13	

Georgia Code

Title 9, Chapter 11

Article 5, Section 9-11-30

(e) Review by witness; changes; signing.

If requested by the deponent or a party before completion of the deposition, the deponent shall have 30 days after being notified by the officer that the transcript or recording is available in which to review the transcript or recording and, if there are changes in form or substance, to sign a statement reciting such changes and the reasons given by the deponent for making them. The officer shall indicate in the certificate prescribed by paragraph (1) of subsection (f) of this Code section whether any review was requested and, if so, shall append any changes made by the deponent during the period allowed. If the deposition is not reviewed and signed by the witness within 30 days of its submission to him or her, the officer shall sign it and state on the record that the deposition was not reviewed and signed by the deponent within 30 days. The deposition may then be used as fully as though signed unless, on a motion to suppress under paragraph (4) of subsection (d) of Code



Section 9-11-32, the court holds that the reasons given for the refusal to sign require rejection of the deposition in whole or in part.

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VERITEXT LEGAL SOLUTIONS

COMPANY CERTIFICATE AND DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Veritext Legal Solutions represents that the foregoing transcript is a true, correct and complete transcript of the colloquies, questions and answers as submitted by the court reporter. Veritext Legal Solutions further represents that the attached exhibits, if any, are true, correct and complete documents as submitted by the court reporter and/or attorneys in relation to this deposition and that the documents were processed in accordance with our litigation support and production standards.

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